THE TIMES

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Preview

Are London's fringe theatres as forbidding as they may seem to the average West End theatregoer? Today's *Preview*, the 16-page guide to entertainment and the arts in Britain, *identifies the best, brightest* and the most provocative members of the volatile fringe scene. *Preview* also contains full information about films, theatre, music, exhibitions, family outings, sport and broadcasting in the coming week.

Leyland strike uproar

Strikers at the Leyland truck plant in Lancashire are to return to work on Monday after a mass meeting which ended in uproar when a convener announced a vote to continue the action. The verdict was later reversed. Colleagues at Chorley are also ending their strike. Workers at Bathgate in Scotland vote today Page 2

Tube disaster in Moscow

Many workers were killed or injured when a staircase collapsed during the rush-hour at the Aviamotornaia Underground station in northern Moscow on Wednesday evening. The station is on a recently opened line.

£1m boost for London Zoo

The London Zoo, which asked for government aid last year after reporting a £550,000 deficit for 1980, is to receive an emergency cash advance "not expected to exceed" £1m, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, said in the Commons.

Football chiefs facing their crisis

Crisis in Football is a full-page analysis of the problems facing Football League chairmen at their seminar in Solihull this weekend Page 19

Kincora inquiry

A public inquiry chaired by a High Court judge will investigate the circumstances of the homosexual scandal at Kincora boys' home, Belfast, when police investigations are concluded, Mr James Prior told MPs Page 2

Madrid trial

Spanish police have been placed on maximum alert for the court martial which begins in Madrid today of three Army generals accused of plotting the overthrow of democracy in Spain a year ago Page 6

Share scramble

The Amersham International share issue was more than 20 times oversubscribed. Cheques for the issue totalling more than £1,000m put through the banking system caused a shortage of bank funds Page 15

TROUBLED ALLIES

In the final article in a series on the state of the Atlantic Alliance, James Callaghan, the former *Prime Minister*, argues that the effectiveness of Nato will always be in doubt while America and Western Europe view the world in such different ways Page 10

In The Times tomorrow

In the country with Susan Hill: The distinguished novelist brilliantly evokes rural life in the first of a series of articles from her forthcoming book, *The Magic Apple Tree*.
The Great European Eaters: Gert von Paczensky begins his side of a combined gastronomic tour of Britain by eating at Inverlochy Castle, Inverness-shire.
The George Washington Scandals: Marcus Cunliffe, the historian, disentangles the man from the myth.

Leader page, 11

Letters: On the rail settlement, from Mr R. J. W. Crabbe, and others; child and parent, from Dr A. M. McWhinnie, and Mr K. Campbell

Leading articles: Spain; railways; gas and electricity prices

Features, pages 9, 10
The Budget measures that could bring £7,000m investment and 300,000 new jobs; David Watt puts the case for a money-saving missile; schoolboy speculation on the United States stockmarket, by Peter Watson

Obituary, page 12
Dame Ngaio Marsh, Dr Francoise Henry

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De Lorean set to call in receiver for rescue bid

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Agreement on a voluntary receivership for the De Lorean car company in Belfast was expected in government circles last night after talks between ministers and the company's board resumed at the Northern Ireland Office in London.

Hopes were high that a considerable part of the business could be retained, with a reduced work force.

A statement will be made in the Commons today.

A meeting convened at noon yesterday was adjourned after half an hour when Mr John De Lorean was unable to prove he had succeeded in raising more capital privately in the United States. But the atmosphere was said to be amicable.

Discussion between the Government team, led by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and the De Lorean board was based on a report by Sir Kenneth Cork and the accountants Coopers and Lybrand on the company's past performance and future prospects.

The signs were that the two sides still differed on the probable size of the much-reduced market which Sir Kenneth believes exists in the United States

Mr Prior was last night maintaining the Government's refusal, as the company's major creditor, to make more money available and was also resisting Mr De Lorean's requests to restructure the company's debts or to postpone payment of loan interest. The company has received more than £80m in state aid.

With no sign of the £15m in extra capital which Mr De Lorean was reported to have raised, Mr Prior and his officials argued that receivership was inevitable.

The choice, it was suggested, therefore lay between an enforced receivership against the board's protestations with inevitably damaging consequences for the car's reputation, and a jointly agreed receivership with goodwill maintained.

By last night it appeared that the board and Mr De Lorean himself were resigned to the second alternative.

☐ What appears to be the end of Mr De Lorean's company in its present form followed a day of confusion and rapidly-summoned meetings in the Northern Ireland office in London (David Hewson writes).

At the end of the day, Mr Cork said: "There is every chance that the jobs in Northern Ireland will carry on.

"There is hope for the company and Mr Prior thinks there is hope for the company."

Motor industry sources last night speculated that, although Mr Prior may not be willing to inject new cash support, he may provide some loan guarantees.

Certainly he has come under concerted pressure in the past few days both from within the province, and from some of the mainland suppliers to De Lorean who would be badly hit by the company's closure. The car firm now employs 1,500 workers, but as many as 3,000 jobs could be lost elsewhere as a result of its failure.

☐ Further job losses at De Lorean will be a desperate blow to Northern Ireland, where unemployment in January ran at 113,337 or 19.7 per cent of the workforce

But that figure hides pockets of 40 per cent male unemployment in some parts of depressed Catholic West Belfast from where the car plant draws a fair proportion of its workers

Job losses at De Lorean would be multiplied down the line among the car company's 200-plus suppliers. The unions and the company estimate that up to 1,000 jobs in Northern Ireland and at least three or four times that number on the mainland may depend on the company.

Photograph, back page

Parker defends his decision to pay up

By David Felton

British Rail last night mounted a strong defence of its decision to pay the three per cent increase to striking footplatemen and denied accusations of retreat on yesterday's peace formula which ended the strikes.

Sir Peter Parker, the BR chairman, said that he was prepared to resign if the issue of flexible rostering is not agreed by the train driver's union, at the end of the fresh negotiations which open on Monday.

The executive of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) yesterday rubber-stamped their negotiators' acceptance of the peace formula and the decision to call off the strikes, but not without a last minute hiccup.

Sir Peter said on the radio that he believed the agreement, reached after 13 hours of talks at the offices of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) meant that the union would move away from the guaranteed eight-hour day

That remark led the executive to delay the decision to halt the strikes and Mr Ray Buckton, Aslef general secretary, said Sir Peter's remarks had been "irresponsible". He said: "Aslef's very firm policy is against any elimination of the guaranteed eight-hour day and we shall be pursuing that policy right the way through the negotiations".

Sir Peter said the Aslef strikes had cost BR about £90m in revenue and an uncalculated sum in freight business now lost to the railways. The consequence of this could be that 3,000 more jobs will have to disappear from the industry on top of the 7,000 redundancies already planned this year.

During Prime Minister's questions in the Commons Mrs Margaret Thatcher said that it was too early to judge the result of the rail despute.

Mrs Thatcher agreed with Mr Edward Gardner, Conservative MP for South Fylde, that the agreement should be phrased in plain English that everyone could understand.

Some MPs also called for Sir Peter's resignation. Mr George Gardiner, Tory MP for Reigate said: "I doubt whether the travelling public will ever forgive Sir Peter Parker for this. All their sacrifices have been in vain. The only place for him and for Ray Buckton is in the railway museum."

Sir Peter indicated at a news conference that he was not prepared to stand down for the moment from his £60,000-a-year post. His con-

"If we can now get moving and modernize working practices I think we have a pretty good chance of convincing the Government on all the significant things we put into railway policy last year."

The drivers held their seventeenth one-day stoppage yesterday and there could be further difficulties today. Two thousand guards at 20 depots in London and the South East have threatened a 24-hour strike in protest at the NUR's decision to accept flexible rostering.

Travellers in London also face disruption on March 10, when unions plan to halt London Transport bus and Underground services in protest at plans to cut jobs and services.

Sting in the tail, page 2
Leading article, page 11

Closure decision on Times next week

By Donald Macintyre Labour Correspondent

Mr Rupert Murdoch, proprietor of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* yesterday indicated that a board decision on whether to close the papers would be taken on Monday.

Mr William Keys, general secretary of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades who spoke by telephone to Mr Murdoch in New York, said that he had indicated that the closure process would start on Monday unless the current negotiating deadlock over job cuts was broken.

Mr Murdoch, contacted at the *New York Post* confirmed *The Times's version of his statement* to Mr Keys.

A deadline of 10 am yesterday for applications for redundancy passed with an official statement from News International making it clear that the applications fell short of the cuts required of 600 full time jobs and 900 shifts.

That statement said that the company's offer, which laid down voluntary redundancy payments between 12 weeks wages, and a maximum of £25,000, had accordingly lapsed.

It added: "Talks with the unions are continuing. There has been movement in a number of areas but there are *others where no substantial* progress at all has been made. The talks, however, have been sufficiently encouraging in general for them to be continued."

Control of two titles switched back to TNL

News International yesterday switched the titles of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* back to the ownership of its subsidiary Times Newspapers Ltd after an examination by Department of Trade officials of whether the original transfer was legal.

It will now be up to the five independent national directors of the papers—who were not consulted about the transfer of the titles to News International last December—to decide whether to give their consent to any new transfer "subject to suitable [illegible] to News International.

Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, yesterday announced that the transfer decision had been reversed pending the meeting of the five of the six national directors, who are Lord Roll of Ipsden, Lord Robens of Woldingham, Lord Dacre of Glanton, Lord Greene of Harrow Weald and Sir Edward Pickering; there is a vacancy for the sixth, following the resignation last year of Sir Denis Hamilton. The Minister's written answer in the Commons said:

"When I consented last year to the transfer of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* from The Thomson Organisation Ltd to News International Ltd (NIL) I attached certain conditions designed to safeguard editorial independence. Among my conditions was a requirement that NIL should not, without the consent of a majority of the independent national directors, do anything which would result in Times Newspapers Ltd (TNL) selling or otherwise disposing of any interest in *The Times* or *The Sunday Times*.

"I learned at the weekend of reports that Times Newspapers Ltd had transferred the titles of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* to its parent company NIL. This was done without the consent of the independent national directors. My Department has discussed with representatives of NIL the transfer of the titles of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* from TNL to NIL. In the light of these discussions I am satisfied that the transfers were carried out on the basis of legal advice that no breach of the conditions would be involved, and that the purpose was not to achieve a situation whereby the conditions safeguarding editorial freedom would be avoided.

Continued on back page, col 3.

A few words for the Prime Minister

Brian Harris

Mrs Vi Ruffel, from Dulwich, South-east London, one of more than 800 pensioners from all over Britain who lobbied Parliament yesterday for higher pensions and other concessions. Representatives from the National Pensioners' Convention, which is sponsored by the Trades Union Congress, met the Prime Minister, but said afterwards that Mrs Thatcher had offered nothing beyond a promise to consider waiving some standing charges on fuel supplies and telephone bills.

Fighting goes on amid Hama's rubble-strewn streets

From Robert Fisk Hama, Feb 18

The unshaven Syrian tank crews seemed almost indifferent to the two shells that burst around a cluster of buildings half a mile to the west. There were two loud reports and a dirty trickle of brown smoke began to pour from the windows of a blue-painted house.

The soldiers watched for a few moments, their battledress covered in a grime, their eyes bloodshot from lack of sleep, then lay back to rest against their vehicles. Only the women of Hama, black-robed most of them, waiting for transport out of the besieged city in which their homes had been destroyed, seemed to care.

A girl in her twenties, with a small, round peasant face and a pale blue scarf on her head, pushed herself into our car. "I went to look for my brother", she said quietly, as if suppressing emotion. "His house was on fire. He was not there. I went to the cemetery. There were more than 100 bodies laid out but I could not find his. God be merciful." She sank into a corner seat, resentful and frightened.

There was another rumbling explosion across the ghost-like city followed by a peppering of rifle shots that sounded thin and unreal down one of the streets, as if someone had dropped a pack of cards on to a wooden table. The smoke had begun to blossom out of the buildings now, climbing upwards and smudging the surrounding streets in a brown mist.

The *morning sun glinted* briefly off a silver-roofed mosque, its perfect dome broken by a shellhole that had left a thick black stain on the tiles.

The Syrian Government say that the fighting in Hama has ended, that only a few fanatical members of the Muslim Brotherhood remain in the old quarter of the city. But they have not permitted foreigners to enter Hama and verify this, and it is easy to see why. The city is almost empty, inhabited only by exhausted soldiers, gunmen and frightened, desolate women, its suburbs surrounded by up to 12,000 troops and its streets covered in rubble.

I drove into the battle lines this morning with two soldiers who had asked me for a lift back to their units. They claimed—with considerable justification—that after 16 days, there was no sign to an end to the fighting.

Three hundred yards from one of the ancient wooden water wheels that once made

Continued on back page, col 4

Car bomb kills 4

A car bomb containing half a ton of explosives devastated a 10-storey Government office block in Damascus yesterday, killing four people and injuring 40. The building houses the Syrian Ministry of Information and *Al-Baath*, the ruling party's newspaper. The extremist Muslim Brotherhood has killed several hundred people with its terrorist bombs in Damascus in the past two years Page 8

Reagan admits concern at interest rates

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, Feb 18

President Reagan said today that interest rates were one of his chief concerns, but he added at a Washington news conference that he was determined to keep deficits down.

"I want to make it clear today that neither this Administration nor the Federal Reserve will allow a return to the fiscal and monetary conditions of the past that have created current conditions."

He made it clear there was little room for compromise with Congress on his 1983 budget. He was sticking to his defence spending plans and tax cuts.

He refused, however, to be pinned down to saying when the effects of his policies would bring about an upturn in the economy. Backing away, to some degree from the predictions of his economic advisors in their annual report to Congress that recovery would get under way in the second *quarter, the President said it* would happen in the months ahead.

The President emphasized that there were no plans to send combat troops to El Salvador or anywhere else, but he refused to say whether America would use covert action.

Trying to reassure Congress that the United States was not being drawn into a Vietnam-type of conflict in El Salvador, Mr Reagan said at his eighth news conference as President: "Lest there be some misunderstanding, there are no plans to send American combat troops into action any place in the world".

Auction houses go it gavel and tongs

By Torin Douglas

In the best tradition of baked bean and soap powder manufacturers, Britain's two biggest auction houses will soon be locked in an advertising battle, in which each is playing by different rules. Sotheby's is taking the stance of brand leader, with elegant understated advertisements; Christie's is promoting itself as the cheaper of the two.

Sotheby's, the world's largest auction house, is launching a £7.25m campaign this weekend to persuade the art world that is *the* place to auction one's valuables. So confident is the company of the value of its name that the advertisements appearing in national newspapers and magazines will not even carry the company's address or telephone number.

They will simply show an elegant blonde, whose face is never seen, admiring pieces in elegant houses, with the copy line: "You're thinking of selling? And you haven't spoken to Sotheby's?"

The advertisements speak volumes by what they do not say. There is no mention of the issue that has split the art world, namely the buyer's premium charged by auctioneers, which is being investigated by the Office of Fair Trading.

The contrast with the *advertising campaign* by Christie's, Sotheby's greatest *rivals, could* hardly be greater. For Christie's, which decided last December to cut its buyer's premium from 10 per cent to 8 per cent, is hammering home in its advertisements its 2 per cent advantage over Sotheby's.

"Christie's. Now an even better bid", the price-conscious *headline* says. "By reducing the buyer's premium by a fifth, from 10 per cent to 8 per cent, Christie's now offers the most competitive rates of any international auction house." The advertisement ends with the pay-off line: "Christie's competes. Since 1766." Then follows the company's address.

Is Sotheby's convinced that its arrogant approach is going to pay dividends in the face of its rivals' aggressively competitive campaign Mr Barry Turner, the marketing director, is convinced that it will, although he agrees that he was doubtful about whether the Sotheby's address should be left out.

Russell Associates, Sotheby's advertising agency, argued strongly that Sotheby's should take the understated, brand leader approach. The client was convinced, apparently, when research results indicated that 90 per cent of the public recognized Sotheby's name.

Underlying the strategy, however, is Sotheby's belief that the buyer's premium is irrelevant in an advertising campaign of this type, which is aimed at increasing business through sellers.

"What we are saying in this campaign". Mr Turner says, "is that we are not only the biggest, we are also the best."

Heinz or Persil could not have put it better.

Belgravia closure, page 12

Palace offended by bikini photographs of Princess

By Alan Hamilton

Buckingham Palace has taken strong exception to photographs of the Prince and Princess of Wales on holiday in the Bahamas, published in yesterday's editions of *The Sun* and the *Daily Star*. The Queen is understood to regard them as being in the worst possible taste.

The pictures, clearly taken with powerful telephoto lenses, show the Princess, who is almost six months pregnant, relaxing and swimming at a beach on the island of Windermere, wearing only a brief bikini. They were taken by the two papers' specialist royal photographers, Mr Arthur Edwards and Mr Ken Lennox.

Both newspapers carried prominent front-page pictures of the plainly pregnant Princess, together with double-page spreads inside. One *Sun* picture shows the Princess applying suntan lotion to Prince Charles's back, while the *Star* has pictures of the interior of the royal couple's holiday villa.

Mr Michael Shea, the Queen's press secretary, yesterday made clear to Mr Kelvin Mackenzie, editor of the *Sun*, and Mr Lloyd Turner, editor of the *Star*, the Palace's displeasure at publication of the photographs.

The Press Council is to examine the case for a possible breach of its guidelines on privacy. Mr Kenneth Morgan, director of the council, has written to both editors inviting them to justify their decisions to publish.

A report is to be considered by the council's complaints committee, although the Palace itself has not issued any formal complaint, either to the Press Council or the newspapers involved.

Mr Shea said last night that the Prince and Princess were not yet aware of the publication of the pictures, but it was safe to assume that when they found out they would be "very angry". He said publication had breached the spirit, if not the letter of a meeting between the Palace and editors in December, when a specific request was made to newspapers and broadcasting organizations to refrain from following the Princess during the Christmas holiday at Sandringham, and at their home at Highgrove, Gloucestershire.



"No specific mention was made at that time of any holiday in the Bahamas, but the clear intention was to relieve the intense media pressure on the Princess during her pregnancy", Mr Shea said.

He was aware that both newspapers intended to cover the holiday, although he had been led to believe the *Star* was sending only a reporter.

"I did not make any specific request to either paper not to take photographs, but I did point out that it was a private holiday. It would have been reasonable to expect the spirit of our December meeting with editors to be observed", Mr Shea added.

Mr Turner, of the *Star*, attended the December meeting at the Palace, but *The Sun* did not.

Last week, at a London Press Club dinner, the Prince of Wales thanked journalists for showing more consideration to his wife in the wake of the Palace meeting.

The two newspapers today carry editorials expressing regret that the Queen and the royal couple may have been upset by the pictures. Both confirmed last night that they were withdrawing their teams from the holiday island.

Mr Turner said yesterday he had informed the Palace he was sending a photographer to cover the royal holiday. The *Star* always respected requests to stay away from the royal couple, but there had been no such request on this occasion, he said.

The Palace said last night that its switchboard had received many calls protesting at the pictures.

Judge to head boys' home investigation

From Nicholas Timmins, Belfast

A High Court judge is to head a public inquiry into the scandal at Kincora boys' home in Belfast but not until police inquiries into homosexual activities there and at other homes have been completed.

The move was announced by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, yesterday as Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, announced that a chief constable from outside was to be brought in to investigate allegations that the RUC was involved in a cover-up.

Sir John said that to allay public concern he had asked the Inspector of Constabulary to appoint an outside officer who would have access to all papers, past and present, as well as general oversight of the continuing investigations.

Mr Prior's announcement goes much of the way to meet demands for a judicial inquiry after the original investigation, held in private, collapsed last week when three of the investigating committee of five resigned, saying that crucial criminal aspects of the affair had still to be examined.

The inquiry's precise terms of reference and its powers will be decided after police investigations and criminal proceedings are completed, Mr Prior said.

Five people have been jailed so far for sexual offences in boys' homes. Those include the warden, deputy warden and Mr William McGrath, a house father at Kincora, who received a total of 15 years' imprisonment for offences including buggery, gross indecency and indecent assault.

Yesterday's moves were welcomed by Mr Gerard Fitt, Independent Socialist MP for Belfast, West.

Mr Fitt, who has been calling for a judicial inquiry, said the RUC had responded well, but "where were they between 1961 and 1980 when allegations were first put to the authorities?"

The public inquiry was a big improvement on the previous inquiry, but he was anxious there should be no delay.

He said he also wanted the inquiry to have powers to compel those in prison, as well as Mr Colin Wallace, a former Army press officer, who is said to have told journalists in 1975 that the Army knew that Mr McGrath was a homosexual, to attend.

Mr Wallace is serving a prison sentence in England for a manslaughter offence



Vote protest: Leyland workers surrounding Mr Michael Coyne after his declaration of the result yesterday.

Leyland strike ends in uproar

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Strikers at the Leyland truck factory in Lancashire are to return to work on Monday after a confused mass meeting yesterday at which the works convener at one stage declared the vote to be overwhelmingly in favour of continuing the stoppage.

The meeting ended in uproar when Mr Michael Coyne, the convener, announced the result. Many of the 7,500 strikers surged towards the platform, claiming Mr Coyne had misjudged the vote. He was booed and jeered for more than 30 minutes and some workers alleged that he had tried to force the company to close.

Mr Coyne conceded afterwards that his verdict may have been "a little exaggerated" and his decision was later reversed with an announcement that the vote was in favour of ending the strike.

The final interpretation of the vote was welcomed by BL last night. It had said that continuance of the strike, over planned redundancies and restructuring of the commercial vehicle operation, would close the factories.

Workers at the Bathgate plant in West Lothian, Scotland, are to meet today. As they went on strike in support of their Leyland colleagues, it is thought they might also vote to return to work.

The BL board was standing by for an emergency meeting today and was expected to announce closures and possibly liquidation of the Leyland group if the strike votes went against the company's plans.

Meanwhile, 1,500 strikers at the Chorley plant in Lancashire and 1,750 white collar staff have also agreed to resume work next week.

BL said that given a return to work vote at Bathgate "all of us at Leyland Vehicles must press ahead without delay with the task of winning back lost customers".

The mass meetings came after the breakdown of talks between the management and unions earlier this week, when the company rejected an alternative strategy which, it said, would cost £600m to implement over the next five years. Leyland has been losing £2m a week in recent months, largely because of a drop in demand for heavy trucks.

An Oxford college 'sells' two places

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

An Oxford college has agreed to accept two Hongkong students without their taking the University entrance examination provided they get minimum university matriculation requirements of two grade Es at A level, in return for a £500,000 gift to the college from their father.

It is understood that similar deals, including ones with wealthy British parents, are being considered by other colleges in Oxford and Cambridge. Other hard-pressed universities may be tempted to follow suit.

One don at Wadham, the college in question, threatened to resign unless the college made public its agreement with Mr Lee Shau Kee, a businessman involved in land and property investment in Hongkong.

Sir Stuart Hampshire, Warden of Wadham, has now issued a statement, saying that over the years the college had received substantial gifts from an overseas benefactor who had now promised "a further very substantial benefaction" to provided student accommodation, of which the college was in urgent need.

"This help is, in the present situation, of the highest value, particularly given government policy towards overseas students. Against this background, the college will be pleased to admit two children of the benefactor, subject to their meeting the university's admission requirements," Sir Stuart said. No student would be excluded because of those admissions, he added.

The only admission requirement for Oxford is the minimum matriculation qualification.

There is no rule to prevent a college from accepting any student for whatever reasons, provided he satisfies the minimum requirement. Nor is there any rule to prevent a college from accepting money in return for a student place.

However, Mr Peter Gwyn, a research fellow in history at Wadham, said last night: "This is the unacceptable face of Oxbridge. It is not a finishing school for millionaires' children.

"But if you are going to do it, it is absolutely right that it should be made public. Perhaps Oxbridge should introduce a special category of students: children of wealthy benefactors.

"If you are going to allow any student to enter Oxbridge because their parents are prepared to give large sums of money, the notion that Oxford or Cambridge are academic places goes out of the window."

Science report

Inuit is not a choosy eater, study shows

By Tony Samstag

When the interests of indigenous people in wilderness areas come into conflict with the aspirations of the developers the outcome is usually predictable.

The experience of the Inuits (Eskimos) of northern Quebec may be the exception that proves the rule, however, and in the process provides a valuable lesson in the compatibility of development and conservation.

In 1974 the Inuits and Crees of the region stopped the building of a large hydroelectric complex because of its probable effects on traditional hunting and fishing territories.

A year later, an agreement was signed by all parties to the dispute specifying that future projects take into account the need to preserve the hunting, trapping and fishing rights of the Inuits and on a wider scale to protect the ecological systems in the region.

A seven-year study programme was launched to gather the necessary data for working out such details as permitted harvest levels and routine environmental assessment techniques. About half way into the programme some interesting facts, chiefly about the diet of the Inuits, are beginning to emerge.

The Inuits of northern Quebec harvest more than 3.4 million lb of protein each year, or enough for about 2lb a person a day. That figure represents 28 species of mammals, fish and birds, of which 5 supply more than three quarters of the total by weight: 17,000 ringed seals (19.8 per cent), 134,000 Arctic char (19.1), 4,500 caribou (18.3), 546 beluga whales (10.9), and 1,400 bearded seals (9.6).

The study programme to date has also yielded base maps of hunting territories by species and season; detailed interviews with individual hunters, and estimates of land-use intensity. Field studies have been carried out in the Inuit communities of Great Whale River, Fort Chimo, George River and Akulivik. The next phase of the study is likely to produce comprehensive ecological maps.

Source: World Wildlife Fund Project 1794: Canada, Land and Resource Use among Inuits. (WWF, Panda House, 11-13 Ockford Road, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1QU free.)

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Court curb on Minster homes plan

A High Court judge yesterday granted a temporary injunction preventing Beverley borough council, Humberside, from considering an application for detailed planning permission for a housing estate near the Minster (John Young writes).

The scheme by the St Andrew Street Housing Cooperative has caused prolonged controversy, and was the subject of a number of letters to *The Times* last year.

As well as complaints that the development would ruin a historic and cherished view, there were allegations that the council had acted improperly. They were supported by the local Ombudsman, who accused the council of maladministration.

Jobless cost up by £420m

The Treasury disclosed yesterday that it had provided an extra £420,000,000 for supplementary benefits and supplementary pensions for the present financial year, giving a total estimated expenditure of £4,983m for the year.

A large proportion of the increase was accounted for by the fact that more people have remained unemployed for longer than expected.

Tories' new plea for Invincible

A further protest against the proposed sale of HMS Invincible was made by 20 Conservative backbenchers in a Commons motion last night.

They said they viewed the proposal with alarm and called on the Government to allocate additional resources, estimated at £170m to the Ministry of Defence

The flu virus: A miserable miscalculation

■

In yesterday's report on the influenza epidemic, an accompanying diagram said 20,000 of the A-strain of the virus could fit in the area of the black square above The artist grossly underrated the virus—indeed the diagram was out by some 3,599,980,000, since about 3,600 million can fit in this area.

The diagrammist apologizes to all influenza sufferers; and the medical correspondent—who was not responsible for the error—reports the better news that this year, because the strain has shown little variation from last year, the vaccine used by commercial companies is expected to give 70 per cent protection [The vaccine, to be effective, must have been given one month before exposure to infection, and young people and others who had few previous attacks are advised to have two injections.].

Police look into WRP youth centre

By Michael Horsnell

Special Branch officers are to investigate the activities of a training centre for unemployed young people run by the Workers' Revolutionary Party less than a mile from some of the worst rioting in Liverpool last summer.

Downing Street confirmed yesterday that the Prime Minister had asked the Home Office for a report into allegations that the party encouraged young people in anti-police methods and indoctrinated them with extreme revolutionary views.

At the centre of the controversy is a rundown former fudge factory with metal grilles barring the windows and a sign proclaiming "Youth Training" in Gloucester Place, Edge Hill. The two-storey building, which is soundproofed, was taken over by an organization called Youth Training to provide training opportunities for unemployed young people last March, after a successful planning application to Liverpool City Council on Youth Training notepaper which listed Claire Dixon as secretary and Vanessa Redgrave, a leading WRP member, as chairman.

Inquiries by *The Times* suggest that at political meetings run by the WRP young unemployed people were harangued by speakers advocating no-go areas for the police, the establishment of local militias and an end to the capitalist system.

Jane Hardy, aged 16, who was originally enticed to the centre by the prospect of drama lessons, claims that some of the youths who attended later took part in the Toxteth riots, using citizens' band radios to warn rioters of police manoeuvres.

Youngsters were also asked to sell newspapers supporting the WRP and collect donations for the centre.

Police are likely to speak to Mr Stuart Carter, a WRP supporter in his early 20s, who is said to be responsible for the building and who encouraged Miss Hardy to attend the centre with a number of her friends.

Miss Hardy (whose real name is being withheld at her request) said she was at a discotheque in a school near by last June when Mr Carter approached her with leaflets and a form inviting her to attend the youth centre.

After attending on several occasions, Miss Hardy, who is now employed to help handicapped children in the Southeast, was visited at home by Mr Carter who invited her to a meeting. She says it was packed with about 40 people from Manchester, Birmingham and Runcorn from the age of 11 to 24 who listened to calls for no-go areas for the police and a new form of government.

None of the WRP officials in London and Liverpool including Mr Carter was available for comment on several occasions that *The Times* tried to get in touch with them.

But in an article in the WRP newspaper *News Line* last year, Claire Dixon the party's youth wing Young Socialists' national secretary, said: "We must mobilize a massive youth movement, a revolutionary youth movement. . . There is no peaceful road to socialism—we are building a revolutionary socialist movement to lead the struggle for power, to put an end to Thatcher and her rotten capitalist system."

Irish voters move to new contest

From Richard Ford, Dublin

As the votes cast in the general election were being counted today, Irish eyes were turning to an arguably more important contest tomorrow. The rugby international between Ireland and Scotland, which offers the tantalizing prospect of bringing the triple crown to the Irish Republic for the first time in 33 years, is attracting big interest, with £8 tickets selling at £50 on the black market.

A victory is the result that really matters to any Irishman, whatever his politics. Even Fine Gael, with a touch of flair, has got in on the act with an advertisement on the back page of a Dublin evening newspaper declaring: "FitzGerald to lead Ireland to victory. Vote for Ireland's winning team. Vote Fine Gael".

It is not lost on anyone that the captain of Ireland's rugby team has the same name as the Prime Minister.

The first election result will be known this afternoon. However, it could be tomorrow before any clear victor emerges.

☐ Nominations closed last night for the Belfast, South, by-election on March 4 with eight candidates in the field

In spite of pleas for unity after the seat became vacant with the murder of the Reverend Robert Bradford, the Official Unionist MP, in November, both the Official Unionists and Mr Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party are fielding candidates.

Filly under restraint bit off its tongue

From Arthur Osman, Lichfield

A two-year-old bay filly bit off more than five inches of its tongue when it reared while a farrier was holding the tongue to restrain the animal. He was restraining the filly so that his colleague could trim its hooves, Lichfield magistrates were told yesterday.

One witness said that the tongue was guillotined by the filly's incisor teeth. Mrs Janet Roberts, the horse's owner, said: "When they started she was in one piece and when they finished I had five and a half inches of her tongue in my fridge at home".

Alan Ashford, aged 32, of Barnetts Lane, Brownhills, West Midlands, was found guilty of causing the animal unnecessary suffering. His father, William Kenneth Ashford, aged 57, of Ogley Road, Brownhills, was found guilty of aiding and abetting him. They were each fined £350 and were also ordered to pay £140 costs each.

Expert witnesses called by the RSPCA, which brought the case, told the court that they had never come across such a method of restraint.

The filly, named Warlock Blue Sky is a granddaughter of the Queen's champion Cleveland bay, Mulgrave Supreme. It can no longer graze and has to be hand fed from a bucket by Mrs Roberts and her daughter, Jane, aged 13, who live at Medway Street, Chasetown, West Midlands.

Bill Warhurst

Jane Roberts with the mutilated filly, Warlock Blue Sky.

Prisons may have duty solicitors

By Frances Gibb

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, has told the Prison Department to reconsider setting up a duty solicitor scheme in prisons after representations from MPs and from Lord Benson, chairman of the Royal Commission on Legal Services.

Initially, the Home Office's prison department had rejected the idea of a pilot scheme for duty solicitors to work on a rota basis in prisons, as proposed by the Manchester Legal Services Committee, a group of lawyers and laymen monitoring legal services in the area.

It also rejected a proposal from Wandsworth Legal Resource Project to set up a lawyers' surgery, where one or two solicitors would work full-time in Wandsworth prison.

The reason in both cases was that although the Home Office did not object in principle, it was unwilling to embark on experiments which would make further demands on staff.

But in a letter to Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, chairman of the all-party parliamentary penal affairs group, Mr Whitelaw states: "I am asking my officials to examine carefully the practicalities of mounting an experimental scheme, or schemes, precisely to test the extent of the effect it would have on our resources and to make an assessment of the extent of unmet demand for legal services of this kind in prisons".

He emphasizes that the objective is to provide legal advice on matters arising outside the prison, and not worries or complaints over prison treatment.

Racial bias at the Bar to be scrutinized

By Lucy Hodges

Racial discrimination among barristers is to be investigated by a working party containing three QCs and five black barristers presided over by a High Court judge.

The move shows how seriously the Bar is taking allegations of racial discrimination in its own ranks and comes after the failure of a questionnaire sent out by the Bar's governing body a year ago which was boycotted by black barristers and others.

The working party will meet for the first time on March 1 under the chairmanship of Mr Justice Browne-Wilkinson, president of the Employment Appeal Tribunal. Other members of the working party are Mr Andrew Leggatt, chairman of the Bar, Mr Richard Scott, QC, the Bar's vice-chairman, Mr Conrad Dehn, QC, and Sir Arthur Power.

The group will try to identify racial discrimination at the Bar and devise its prevention or cure. A conference will be held at Easter at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, supported by the Society of Black Lawyers, the Commission for Racial Equality and the Bar.

Black barristers say that it has been difficult for them to establish pupillages and tenancies in established chambers and they have been forced to set up their own all-black chambers, commonly known as "ghettoes".

In a recent article in the Law Society's Gazette, Mr Andrew Leggatt says that these chambers will not have the benefit of experienced senior members. "If the chambers are among the less well-off they may lack books, the tools of the barrister's trade. These factors drive many black barristers into the lower grades of work".

The alarm about racial discrimination was first sounded in 1979 when the Royal Commission on Legal Services said that the 200 black barristers felt themselves to be outside the normal run of professional practice.

The matter came to a head when Mr Rudy Narayan, who is also on the new working party, was accused of using offensive language at a disciplinary tribunal of the Bar. He had complained of racialism and was acquitted of conduct unbecoming a barrister.

Since then the Commission for Racial Equality has been taking preliminary soundings with a view to a formal investigation of the Bar. So far this has come to nothing and the recent moves by the Senate of the Inns of Court and the Bar should be seen as pre-empting action by the commission.

Rail peace formula

Sting in the tail for Aslef

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The ink was barely dry yesterday on the peace formula which ended the six-week rail dispute before the inquests started on whether British Rail had succeeded in its avowed goal of winning productivity improvements from the footplatemen's union.

Seventeen days of strikes have cost British Rail almost £90m in revenue and, perhaps as much again in lost freight business which may not return to the railways, and caused frustration and delays for millions of passengers.

Against that background, many observers were asking yesterday if the management had really gained anything worthwhile from the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen in the face of old-fashioned union militancy. The peace formula does not commit Aslef to move away from the guaranteed eight-hour day, which it regards as sacrosanct, but it does commit the union to negotiate on the introduction of flexible rostering in the framework of a very tight timetable.

Some politicians were also discussing whether Sir Peter Parker had a future as British Rail's chairman.

Commuters and, indeed, government ministers had witnessed what seemed to be a big climb-down by British Rail in the face of old-fashioned union militancy. The peace formula does not commit Aslef to move away from the guaranteed eight-hour day, which it regards as sacrosanct, but it does commit the union to negotiate on the introduction of flexible rostering in the framework of a very tight timetable.

Sir Peter and his board are certain to come in for criticism for apparently moving away from their firm standpoint over Aslef. But he is unlikely to offer his resignation to the Government, at least for the time being.

If at the end of the productivity negotiations with Aslef, which start next week, flexible rostering has not been introduced for the 20,000 train-drivers, Sir Peter will probably then decide to go.

British Rail's stance during the dispute has been that it was not prepared to pay the 3 per cent increase to Aslef members and gain nothing in return. On Tuesday the board decided not to accept the McCarthy inquiry report, although it had been approved by all three rail unions, unless Aslef was prepared to make a clearer and more firm commitment to flexible rostering.

Yet little more than 24 hours later a joint statement was agreed by British Rail and the unions, and signed by Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary and Mr Pat Lowry, chairman of Arbitration, Conciliation and Advisory Service (Acas), which made no mention of any commitment to introduce new rostering.

During the 13 hours of discussions at the Acas offices which went into the early hours of yesterday, Mr Murray acted with Mr Lowry as a go-between, and was responsible for drawing up the final form of words in the key paragraph of the joint statement, which eventually sealed the agreement.

British Rail attaches great importance to the fact that Mr Murray signed the statement, because it believes that puts the prestige of the whole union movement "on the line".

On the face of it, there seems little new in the peace formula that was not contained in the understandings on pay and productivity agreed last August, under which British Rail agreed to pay an 11 per cent increase in two stages in return for a commitment from the unions to negotiate on six productivity issues.

However, the sting of this dispute may be in the tail for Aslef.

By accepting the McCarthy report, the management and unions have agreed that the vexed issue of flexible rostering will go through the industry's negotiating machinery culminating with a hearing at the Railway Staff National Tribunal, the "final appeal court." That body which is also headed by Lord McCarthy, will rule on British Rail's proposals for the implementation rather than the *principle* of flexible rostering.

The management has reached agreement with the other unions on new rosters involving seven to nine-hour shifts in an eight-week cycle, linked to the introduction of the 39-hour week.

The 39-hour week is still being denied to Aslef until the new rosters are accepted and the tribunal, it Lord McCarthy's recommendations are followed, will meet by March 19 at the latest.

Aslef will also be faced with giving evidence to the tribunal on the new rosters while continuing its unwavering commitment to defend the eight-hour day.

The statement that signalled the end of the strikes said: "All the unions have accepted the McCarthy report as printed, without qualification, including confirmation of the commitment to enter into negotiations on productivity.

"None of the unions is seeking to impose on the British Railways Board any condition or any limitation on the issues that can be examined in negotiation, or if necessary referred to arbitration in accordance with the terms as laid down in the report".

As far as British Rail is concerned, those are the crucial paragraphs, and give a clear indication that Aslef is now firmly locked into productivity talks which have to be concluded within the timetable.

The union would also be under pressure to accept any findings of the tribunal, even if those findings are not binding, because to do otherwise would be to negate its arguments throughout the dispute that the issue should have been settled through the negotiating machinery

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Alliance plans PR Bill

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Liberal-Social Democrat Alliance will go into the next election with legislation prepared for proportional representation.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, says in a television interview to be shown on BBC's *Newsweek* programme tonight: "We expect to prepare not just proposals, but an actual Bill before the election, so that if we come into government we will be ready to introduce a Bill".

He agrees that neither Labour nor the Conservatives would willingly renounce the present electoral system, but the alliance would not be divided from its main demand for reform.

A Marplan poll commissioned by *Newsweek* indicates a continuing slump in alliance fortunes, with only 29 per cent support, compared with 32 per cent for Labour and 34 per cent for the Conservatives.

Nevertheless, the poll conducted on January 26 with 1,000 respondents produced 65 per cent support for a voting system which would match the number of Commons seats in direct proportion to the number of votes cast.

Mr Angus Maude, the former Conservative Cabinet minister who has strongly opposed proportional representation, says he does not feel that his party will go along with the change.

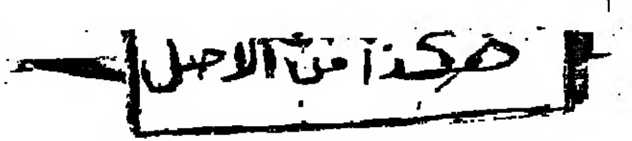
He said: "If the alliance got any significant number of seats and neither of the two parties was willing to enter into a formal coalition, there are three things that could happen.

"Either the Conservatives could form a government and challenge the SDP to vote them down if they wanted to, or the Labour Party could do the same, or both parties could refuse to form a government and say to the alliance: 'Right, you form a government and see how long you last'."

But Mr Eric Heffer, a member of the Shadow Cabinet and of Labour's national executive, says the Conservatives are more likely to crack than Labour.

Overseas selling prices

Austria Sch 28; Bahrain BD 0.650; Belgium B Fr 40; Canada $2.00; Canaries Pes 100; Cyprus 550 mils; Denmark Dkr 7.50; Finland Mk 7.00; France Fr 7.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 70; Holland Gl 3.25; Iran IR 150; Israel IS 20; Italy L 1600; Jordan 600 fils; Kuwait 450 fils; Lebanon LL 4.00; Luxembourg Lf 40; Madeira Esc 75; Malta 30c; Morocco Dir 7; Norway Kr 7.00; Oman 0.500; Pakistan Rps 15; Portugal Esc 75; Qatar 6.00; Saudi Arabia SR 4.50; Singapore $3.50; Spain Pes 100; Sweden Sek 6.50; Switzerland S Fr 3.00; Syria LS 5.00; Tunisia 600; USA $1.50; UAE Dh 7.00; Yugoslavia Din 50



Cabinet seems to have shelved rating reform

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Cabinet seems to have abandoned hope of passing legislation to reform the rating system during the present Parliament. Senior ministers, after reluctantly concluding that there is not enough time to agree on an alternative system, are considering ways of presenting a revived commitment to reform at the next general election.

They accept that, having failed to come up with an answer in its previous term of office, the Government would need something more than a simple manifesto pledge for any promise of reform to carry credibility with the electorate.

One strong possibilty canvassed by senior ministers is that, on the assumption that some form of consensus emerges between now and the election, a draft rates reform Bill will be included in the next manifesto.

Another, less likely option, is that that Bill would be introduced, with no prospect of enactment, in the final session of this Parliament which, if the Government runs near to its full course, would begin in the autumn of 1983.

That session will inevitably be truncated by the dissolution, and legislation on such an important subject would have no chance of getting through in time. The likelihood of a Bill in the next session starting next autumn has all but disappeared.

Ministers and most Conservative MPs are commited to rate system reform, but have found it impossible to agree on what should replace it. During the election campaign in October, 1974, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, then Opposition environment spokesman, made a personal pledge to abolish the rates.

The Conservative manifesto then stated: "Within the normal lifetime of a Parliament we shall abolish the domestic rating system and replace it by taxes more broadly based and related to people's ability to pay."

In the last manifesto the commitment was modified: "Cutting income tax must take priority for the time being over abolition of the domestic rating system." However, the Government's latest move came in December with the publication of a Green Paper; which reiterated its commitment to reform and set out the various alternatives.

Representations have been invited by March 31. They will be voluminous, but will yield no consesus. All the options — a local sales tax, local income tax, or a poll tax, or combinations of either of them with some form of domestic rates, are so fraught with complications that the Cabinet accepts that it is impossible to produce legislation in the next session.

Perhaps the most persuasive argument influencing ministers against action in this Parliament is the approach of the next election.

Even if legislation were passed in the next year or two it could not take effect, because of the complex system of computerization involved, until the late 1980s.

In the forthcoming legislative programme, which the Government's business managers expect to be heavy, ministers will want to concentrate on measures that have more short-term electoral appeal.

GLC wins battle over licence fees

□ The Greater London Council won a High Court battle over its big increased charges for music and dancing licences yesterday, which will save ratepeyers' money. (The Press Association reports).

Two judges dismissed a test case appeal by the Rank Organisation, which contended the increased fees were not within the council's discretion and were unreasonable. Rank suggested it was improper for the GLC to decide to recoup a large part of the cost of the licenisng system from the owners of licensed establishments, ratepayers should bear the cost as before.

Law Report, page 9

Shore battles on for pay-peg policy

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Labour leadership's softening-up campaign in preparation for the eventual introduction of a pay policy was continued last night with a speech from Mr Peter Shore, the shadow Chancellor.

He told a Labour club meeting in Wigan that the Labour Party in Government would have to face and overcome the twin problems of inflation and unemployment.

He then quoted the 1944 *White Paper on Employment Policy*, which said that if a high and stable level of employment was to be maintained it would be essential for employers and workers to exercise moderation in wage matters.

Mr Shore said: "If this does not happen, then increased Government expenditure will not create jobs, but simply swell costs and raise prices. That is why relative price stability and the containment of costs, including income increases, are essential and why they are inextricably connected."

Such a policy would require price controls, tax cuts, and union cooperation, but Mr Shore failed to spell out the practicalities that would lead to the negotiation of a new social contract.

He said merely that the Conservatives would scoff at the notion of such a joint venture, but such ridicule would be directed against the ability of men and women to make a judgment of their own best interests and to commit themselves to restraint for the benefit of society.

Mr Shores's speech, a repeat of an appeal for intrervention in the collective bargaining process that he made at the party conference last September, comes in the wake of an interview with Mr Michael Foot in *Tribune* last week, in which the Labouur leader spoke of the need for pay restraint.

Dilemma on sixth forms

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

A government report on the relative costs of different systems of education for young people aged 16 to 18 is published today. But it offers no advice on whether school sixth forms, sixth form colleges, or tertiary colleges, would be most acceptable.

The report takes the form of a manual on methods of costing educational provision. It is not a guide to costs of particular forms which would vary from area to area, the Department of Education and Science says.

In a foreword to the report, Mr William Shelton, Under Secretary of State at the department, says councils should consider costs in deciding what form of post-16 provision would best suit local needs. However, the Government's view is that the chief concern must be with educational quality and choice.

Last November, the Government rejected Manchester's proposals to replace all its school sixth forms with sixth form colleges, in spite of advice from the HM Inspectorate for Schools and civil servants that the proposals should be approved.

It is also expected to reject schemes in Croydon and Birmingham to replace sixth forms with tertiary colleges or sixth form colleges.

Polaris submarines face longer lives

By Henry Stanhope, *Defence Correspondent*

Britain's four Polaris submarines will probably have to serve for five years longer than originally planned if the Government, as expected, choose to buy the Trident-2 missile.

They were to have been phased out from about *1992* by when the oldest, HMS Resolution, would have completed 25 years. They would then have been replaced one by one, by new boats carrying the American Trident-1 or C4 missile.

Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, and his advisers at the Ministry of Defence, are convinced, however, that Britain should keep in step with the United States by adopting not the Trident-1 but the bigger, longer-range, more expensive Trident-2 or D5.

It is understood that the proposal, which has been drawn up at the ministry, envisages delaying the introduction of the new nuclear deterrent until the late 1990s.

Sources say that a decision to change to Trident-2 and *the* bigger submarines to carry it, would push the cost of the procurement package from the present Government estimate of £5,000m to about £7,500m.

By postponing its introduction, however, the Government would spread the cost over a longer period. That would enable the ministry to keep down the cost of the procurement to an annual average of 3 per cent of the defence budget.

The ministry would have to be convinced that the existing boats would be capable of carrying their dangerous cargo for five or so more years. No difficulties are anticipated.

As for the missiles, the ministry is bringing the new Cheveline warhead into service this year, which should extend their capacity to penetrate to targets in the Soviet Union.

The ministry has also confirmed that a programme costing several hundred million pounds is soon to begin, to replace the rocket motors. Britain has bought a supply of Polaris stocks from the United States to keep the United Kingdom deterrent in good repair after it has been phased out of service in the United States Navy.

Case for a money-saving missile, page 10

Hope behind the despair of Bullwood

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Girls at Bullwood Hall borstal in Essex, which has become notorious as Britain's most "violent and troubled prison establishment", are furious about a paper issued last week which said the place should be closed.

Keep Out, a new pressure group, decribed Bullwood as a "stark and isolated establishment" where girls faced "a sentence of despair".

But if that is the truth, it is not the whole truth, as a visit there this week established.

Dr Rowland Berry, the visiting psychiatrist who is quoted as saying that Bull wood was probably the most difficult establishment in the United Kingdom, also said it was a caring community. He told me: "Many more girls cry when they leave than when they come".

One girl, who has been in care since the age of 11, said: "This place is magic. It is just like a children's home." She was being cuddled by a motherly prison officer.

A girl aged 16, in for criminal damage and assault on the police, showed me a letter she had written to *The Times* saying: "Did the report mention girls trying to prolong their stay because they become attached to staff and girls?"

She said some deliberately got into trouble to try to get their sentences extended.

The girls agree that some tattooing takes place, but they maintain that stories of other forms of self mutilation are much exaggerated. A girl, aged 18, who admitted becoming a burglar when she was nine, said that her tattoos, done before coming to Bullwood, were "to make me look big". The girls' tattoos are examined on admission to see if others are added while they are inside.

Another 18-year-old, in for taking away a car and burglary, showed me her bandaged arm and said she had cut herself with a toothpaste tube until she bled. "It just came into my head". She said she did it because staff would not believe her when, on arrival, she said she had a period and so could not have a VD examination.

Dr Perry said he had come across one girl, with 17 foreign bodies, needles, pins, and straightened-out paper clips, in her skin.

But staff say that to refer only to mutilation taking place without referring to what is being done about it, tells only half the story.

Mr Eric Cullen, Bullwood's senior psychologist, describes the Keep Out paper as "*fragments of facts with uninformed comment*". He tells how a computer has been used to help to predict which girls might mutilate themselves. As a result, the incidence of self injury has been reduced from 11 cases a week in 1979 to two a week for the last six months.

Girls most at risk are those with a previous history of self injury, previous institutional experience, a record of violent offences, and who have low self-esteem and a low capacity for self-expression.



Brian Harris

Taking care: Bullwood girls can find more attention than they get outside. Below, tattoos are inspected on arrival to monitor self-mutilation.

The Keep Out paper says there are even cases of self-strangulation. But while there is wide concern about cell deaths in the rest of the prison service, Bullwood staff cannot recall a single case of suicide there although there have been attempts.

The girls would no doubt be easier to control if drugs were used with that in mind, but Dr Berry says: "We don't give drugs much. I don't believe drugs are useful for the control of naughty behaviour".

Instead, some of the more disturbed girls are being taught how to make letter cases to give as mother's day presents. And Dr Berry has set up a so-called "love department" (a psycho-therapy unit) where girls are treated with more warmth and affection than might be the case outside.

Two "well known girls about town", as Dr Berry introduced them, had 21 'O' levels between them. Another asked a prison officer for a book on neo-realism, which she is going to buy.

Perhaps the best recommendation for the job Bullwood tries to do is the number of cards and poems girls send staff

Forty-five per cent of the girls are reconvicted after 12 months, according to the psychologist's figures.

But there are grounds for criticism which Keep Out did not mention. Bullwood is suffering a serious staff shortage because the new Holloway Prison is being given priority after a recruiting ban.

Bullwood is a penal dustbin in the sense that nowhere else will take one of the most troubled and volatile populations in the penal system.

Drug squad 'knew of heroin ring'

From Our Correspondent
Sheffield

A couple lived a life of luxury running a drugs "supermarket" from a rent-free flat while drugs squad officers who knew about the affair did not intervene, Sheffield Crown Court was told yesterday.

Anthony Bashforth, aged 25, Lesley Whyman, aged 26, supplied a variety of frugs and ensnared their clients by first offering free drugs until they were hooked, then forcing them to pay for future supplies, the court was told.

Accused with them was Malcolm Emmett, aged 21, of Newstead Way, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, who pleaded guilty to six offences of possessing and supplying drugs and theft.

Bashforth, unemployed, of Cypress Avenue, Sheffield, *admitted 27 charges of supplying* and possessing drugs and handling stolen property and asked for 26 others to be considered.

Whyman, of Topham Drive, Sheffield, admitted four offences. Kim Crapper, aged 23, of Harborough Avenue, Sheffield, admitted three offences. Barbara Whyman, aged 48, also of Topham Drive, admitted one offence, as did a boy aged 16.

The hearing continues.

BMW chief defends price policy

By Patrick Waymark
Motoring Correspondent

The German BMW company yesterday defended its policy of charging 50 per cent more for cars in Britain than on the Continent.

Dr Walter Hasselkus, managing director of BMW (GB), said that if importers were forced to cut prices, British manufacturers would have to follow and that could be disastrous for the industry.

BL would lose even more money and Ford might close its British plants he said. The loss of jobs in an industry where 330,000 workers were made redundant last year would be terrifying, he said.

Dr Hasselkus said the prices of British-built cars were high because manufacturers were not competitive on either productivity or efficiency. He added: "We *importers* have to price our cars accordingly, or we would damage the British car industry and therefore the British economy".

Dr Hasselkus said BMW could reduce its prices in Britain by 10 per cent and still be profitable.

If the European Economic Community insisted on reducing price differentials, the process would have to be spread over five years to minimise dislocation to the whole European car industry.

The following table shows companies the prices of BMW cars in Britain and West Germany. The German prices have been converted to sterling at 4.5 marks to the pound.

Model	U.K.	W. Germany
320	£7,775	£4,956
525i	£11,355	£6,756
628CSi	£16,968	£11,256
735i	£18,155	£1o,789

Dr Hasselkus criticized for unauthorized dealers who tried to import cheap cars from the continent for looking for profit without responsibility. He said authorized dealers had to provide an after-sales network and without profits from new cars, that would suffer. *Eventually the roads of* Britain would be littered with unsafe and unreliable cars. "The consumer organizations have not mentioned this aspect of buying cheap cars abroad."

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Anglers face curbs on trout

An outbreak of whirling disease, which makes young trout swim in circles until they die, seems to be mainly affecting Yorkshire, Humberside, Lincolnshire, Powys, and Lancashire, according to a Parliamentary reply by Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and food (Ronald Kershaw writes). Twenty-five cases have been confirmed in England and Wales and orders have been imposed prohibiting the movement of live fish, and eggs of fish; and foodstuffs for fish from the infected areas.

Mr Walker said he could offer no hope of the orders being lifted in time for the openijng of the trout fishing season next month. Until the outbreak was detected last year there had been no record of the disease in England or Wales, although it broke out in Scotland in 1968.

School cleared on 'punishment'

Allegations that pupils at a Cornish village school were excessively punished were *rejected* yesterday.

It had been claimed that an epileptic girl, aged nine, had been struck by the headmaster, but an official statement described the accusation as exaggerated and inaccurate.

The accusations were made by the Society of Teachers opposed to Physical Punishment (Stopp), which claimed the girl was struck across the knuckles with a piece of wood.

'Tribune' editor to advise Foot

Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader, has appointed Mr Richard Clements, aged 53, editor of *Tribune*, as his political adviser for the run-up to the next general election. (Our Political Correspondent writes).

Mr Clements, will take up his post in April. He said yesterday that he had worked with Mr Foot on the *Daily Herald* and had joined *Tribune* in 1955, when Mr Foot was editor.

Whitehouse rebuffed

Lord Thomson of Monifieth, Chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, has *refused to censor* Spooner's Patch a programme about the Police made by Central Independent Television Ltd. Mrs Mary Whitehouse, president of the National Viewers and Listeners Association, had complained that the programme presented the police as "thoroughly corrupt and promiscuous".

PARLIAMENT February 18 1982

Whitelaw says no to corporal punishment

LAW AND ORDER

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, and **Mr Patrick Mayhew**, Minister of State, Home Office, made plain to Conservative backbenchers that the Government was not proposing to reintroduce corporal punishment.

Mr Philip Holland (Carlton, C) called for its reintroduction as a means of reducing violent crime, particularly offences of mugging in the streets.

Mr Whitelaw said that corporal punishment was abondoned in 1948 and an advisory council in 1960 found that its reintroduction would not help. It would (he went on) be completely contrary to our international obligations and so I am not considering the possibility of its reintroduction.

Mr Edward Taylor (Southend, East, C) said that shorter sentences and allied deterrents had been accompanied by a massive upsurge in crime and also appalling congestion of prisons. Why were ministers not prepared to look at corporal punishment? Since corporal punishment was abolished in the Isle of Man there has been a 78 per cent rise in crimes of violence.

Mr Mayhew: The advisory council which reported in 1950 took account of the views of the public that corporal punishment should be reintroduced. It examined comprehensive research on the subject. As to the deterrent effect, the council concluded judicial corporal punishment was not an especially effective deterrent.

In many quarters it was thought a good thing when the European Court of Human Rights pronounced against the closed shop last year. We must take care we are not seen to be in favour of the part of the law that favours us.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab): A powerful section of the Tory Party still believes in 1982 that they can flog mankind into submission.

Sir Albert Costain (Folkestone and Hythe, C): Has his attention been drawn to a letter sent to the Home Secretary by a constituent of mine suggesting that rape is such a dreadful crime that castration is the only proper remedy? Would not that be a punishment fitting the crime?

Mr Mayhew: While sympathising with the sense of abhorrence that inspired what lay behind his constituents suggestion, I think there might be certain practical problems that would attend that sentence.

□ Crime, particularly mugging and the raping ot even frail and elderly women and young children had soared, **Mrs Jill Knight, (Birmingham, Edgbaston, C)** claimed during exchanges on the number of indictable offences committed last year.

She called for measures by which this could be countered and reversed. She urged the reintroduction of discipline in schools, the strengthening of the family unit and a greater deterrent effect. The more lightly we treat criminals (she said) the more criminals there would be.

Mr Mayhew said the areas she referred to did have a bearing upon the problem of crime and its increase. The criminal Justice Bill gave a substantially wider range of penalties, including custodial and non-custodial penalties to the courts.

Asked whether the punishments currently being imposed by magistrates on violent offenders were proving an effective deterrent, Mr Mayhew said: In combating violent crime, sentencing policy has an important part to play. While the deterrent effect of any sentence is not readily measured, the Home Secretary has no doubt that magistrates are giving full weight to the principle of deterrence.

Mr Jocelyn Cadbury (Birmingham, Northfield, C): In the Midlands there is extreme anxiety about the rise in violent attacks, particularly on defenceless old people. There is anxiety that the kind of punishments that are being handed out

Mr Mayhew: I am well aware of the extreme anxiety in many areas of our country at increasing violent crime. Magistrates are drawn from the community, they serve the community, and they live in the community. They are subject to guidance from the Lord Chief Justice and the Court of Appeal, as are all courts.


Holland: Mugging in streets


Taylor: Upsurge in crime

□ **Mr Alan Clark (Plymouth, Sutton, C)** later asked if the Prime Minister has seen the report in *The Times* today that muggings in certain inner cities were up by 50 per cent? Did she note also the assertion by the police that these offences were increasing, with gangs of up to 50 young blacks looting shops in broad daylight?

As it is widely believed (he went on) that both the police and the prosecution in these offences is inhibited by what are loosely termed "community Relations," would she have a word with the newly promulgated Minister for Race Relations who said in the press that his door is always open, and suggest to him that he makes contact with those suffering in those communities, namely the victims?

Mrs Thatcher: I recognise his great concern about increasing mugging and other crime, particularly in London which is revealed this morning. There has been a considerable increase in the number of police in London. We are still not up to full establishment. We are about 1,500 short of full establishment.

Further recruitment will continue because we must have sufficient police to deal with this. That is the first thing we must do. If that is not enough, then we shall have to consider increasing the establishment.

Police files defended as necessary

HOME OFFICE

There was a considerable amount of evidence that the police held files on people who had no criminal past or propensities and it was a serious invasion of their privacy, Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk (Ormskirk, Lab) said.

Earlier Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, had rejected a suggestion from Mr Bruce Douglas-Mann (Merton, Mitcham and Morden, Lab) that he should call for reports from chief constables to ascertain how many police forces, including their special branches, held files, and showing what proportion of these related to people with no criminal record.

Mr Douglas-Mann asked why files on individuals were not subject to scrutiny or questioning by the House.

It is true (he said) that there are special branch files on over a million people. How many MPs are on them? Is the Home Secretary satisfied as to the access to them? How was *The Observer* able to obtain information about a constituent of mine who had done nothing more subversive than to be active as a student in the campaign against the South African rugby tour?

Mr Whitelaw: The Special Branch maintain records on individuals where it is necessary to enable them to carry out the task placed upon them. (Conservative cheers).

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs: Some of the Home Secretary's sillier backbenchers and others are indicating that files of this sort ought to be held. Is that his own view?

Mr Whitelaw: My backbenchers are never silly.

Mr Kilroy-Silk asked for an assurance that in any future arrangements for the protection of data there would be access to police files.

Mr Whitelaw: I must reserve the position until I make a statement on data protection.

Mr Christopher Price (Lewisham, West, Lab): Would he agree that in principle in data protection legislation, there should be no difference between access to electronic files held in computer form and access to manual files?

Mr Whitelaw: I note what he says. I must ask him to await the statement I will make on this important subject.

Police may get fresh advice on rape cases

The Home Office is considering further guidance to the police on the interviewing of the victims of rape, Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State, Home Office, stated.

He had been asked by Mr Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury C) to examine whether the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 was having an inhibiting effect on the deployment of women police officers and the duties they performed.

Mr Maison replied: We do not consider that a review is necessary. Chief constables are able to deploy women officers on a wide range of duties.

Mr McNair-Wilson: Before the 1976 Act women police were a specialist department handling crimes involving women and complaints like rape. As a result of the Act, the police have had to become an integrated force and the specialist department has been broken up.


Summerskill: Tact and sympathy

In view of the concern about offences against women, does he not feel this offence should be looked into by women officers?

Mr Raison: The Act does not restrict the availability of officers of either sex for particular classes of police work. It is true that the specialist units have been terminated. The advisory committee on the law of rape, under Mrs Justice Heilbron, considered that sympathy and experience of officers conducting interviews were more important than their sex.

He added that it might be desirable for a woman officer to be present during an interview if the complainant wished it.

Dr Shirley Summerskill, for the Opposition (Halifax, Lab): The most important qualifications for interviewing the victim of alleged rape are special training, tact, sympathy and understanding, which are found equally among men and women police officers.

All police officers, men and women, must continue to be given equal access to every type of work experience and to training and promotion prospects, as provided for under the Sex Discrimination Act.

Mr Raison: The Heilbron inquiry concluded that women police officers had been able to operate in a much wider sphere than in the past. Chief constables are able to make their own decisions on how to deploy their police officers.

Entry refused to only a few visitors

Genuine visitors to Britain were being turned away almost every day of the week, Mr Roy Hattersley, Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said. Since many were black or members of Indian families, this was a gross form of discrimination.

Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State, Home Office, had said he was satisfied with the procedures under which close relatives of people of foreign extraction now living in the United Kingdom, who were domiciled abroad, were able to visit them here.

Mr Hattersley (Birmingham, Sparkbrook, Lab): Every MP with ethnic minorities among his constituents has good examples of genuine visitors who wish to come here and bring their families, but are prevented from doing so with little evidence to justify it.

Mr Raison: The average number of visitors refused entry is only 0.25 per cent. These cases are looked at with the greatest care, with an appeal system, and ministerial attention given.

Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

Monday: Debate on the arts. Lloyd's Bill, report.
Tuesday: Canada Bill, committee.
Wednesday: Travel Concessions (London) Bill, second reading.
Thursday: Debate on Welsh affairs.
Friday: Private Members' Bills: Rating System (Abolition) Bill and Succession to the Crown Bill, second readings.

The main business in the House of Lords will be:

Monday: Legal Aid Bill and Marriage (Step-parents and Step-children) Bill second readings. Constitutional Referendum Bill, committee.
Tuesday: Mental Health (Amendment) Bill, report, first day.
Wednesday: Debates on rural housing, Scottish highlands, and A320 airbus.
Thursday: Mental Health (Amendment) Bill, report stage, second day.

Leaders clash on pension rises

PM's QUESTIONS

The Prime Minister repeatedly contended during question time exchanges in the Commons with Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, that the value of pensions would be retained in real terms.

Mr Foot tackled her about the meeting she was shortly to have with a delegation from the National Pensioners Convention steering committee. Would the Prime Minister confirm, he went on, that what her Government did last year was to cut by 3 per cent the real value of the pension?

Will she give an assurance (he asked) that she will restore the value of the pension in the forthcoming budget.

Mrs Thatcher: I will not confirm that he says any more than he would necessarily confirm that Labour's last pension increase left the pension well below what it had been. (Interruptions). We gave a pledge and we stand by it. The value of the pension will be retained in real terms.

We have announced that in so far as it was less one year it will be increased the following year and in so far as it was more one year, it would be smoothed out the following year. On the whole the value of the pension will be retained in real terms.

Mr Foot: Will she study the figures? The pensioners know them. Last year was the first time since 1970 that there has been a cut in the value of the pension.

Will she do something about the appalling increases in fuel charges since May 1979? The standing charge on electricity has gone up by 80 per cent, for gas by 300 per cent. What is she going to do about it?

Does she think it is a good idea to try and cure inflation by making old age pensioners freeze?

Mrs Thatcher: In the first year the increase in pensions was greater than the increase in inflation. In the second year it was slightly less. We have therefore agreed that we will make up the shortfall in the second year.

The pension will retain its value in real terms. I would be grateful if Mr Foot would accept these facts.

On what is spent on fuel, for those on supplementary benefit and family income supplement this is greater in real terms than under any previous Government.

Mr Foot: The pensioners know the figures even if she does not. I suggest she should publish in *Hansard* the figures from 1970 of the real value of the pension, and she will discover what I am saying is right and what the pensioners are saying is right.

Mrs Thatcher: He heard my reply. Which of the facts therein does he disagree with? (Conservative cries of "Answer").

Mr David Stoddart (Swindon, Lab): Has she seen the announcement by British Gas of a swingeing and ferocious increase of 22 per cent in gas prices during the current year? This will cause a great deal of hardship to pensioners and others who are already frightened of putting on their appliances in case they will not be able to meet the bills?

Will she, as an act of compassion, withdraw the instruction to the gas board that they must increase prices 10 per cent above the rate of inflation?

Mrs Thatcher: British Gas has been selling gas to the domestic purchaser in the home at or below cost. The profits have largely been coming form industry.

That will not surprise him. He will remember the Labour Government deliberately tipped costs towards industry, and sold domestic gas at a lesser price.

Even with this year's increase, British Gas will only break even on domestic gas. The United Kingdom domestic gas price is now considerably lower than in France or Germany. What we have done about industrial gas is to freeze the price for one year.

This Government through the taxpayer, is providing a larger amount for fuel subsidy than any previous Government.

Mr Kenneth Lewis (Rutland and Stamford, C) during questions on business, said: Many people on our side of the House are concerned about what we think are extravagant demands proposed to be made for increases in gas and electricity prices which we feel will only add to inflation which the Government is trying to keep down and which will make it more difficult to keep salaries and wages in check.

Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the House: It is an important matter but the Prime Minister has said that for domestic users, gas is sold below price.

Mr Stoddart: The reply of the Prime Minister was callous and uncaring, and bearing in mind the Government is holding wages to a low level, will he not arrange a early debate?

Stoddart: Gas price rise criminal

Mr Pym: The Opposition could have a debate in their time. I do not see an opportunity for having time for it in the near future.

How BR can get more investment

If British Railways were to have a future there had to be modernised labour practices and increased productivity, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister said during questions.

Mr George Thornton (Liverpool, Garston, C) had asked: In view of the climbdown of British Rail in the dispute with Aslef would she give an assurance that unless improvements in productivity and reductions in overmanning are implemented in the near future there will be no further investment in British Rail — (Conservative cheers) — and an inevitable consequence of this will be further reductions in services and more job losses?

Mrs Thatcher: It is too early to judge the results of the railways dispute. Both sides have now to go into negotiations. If that is not successful we await the arbitration.

I agree with him. For there to be a future for British Railways it has to be modernised in its labour practices and productivity has to be increased. If we get that increased productivity there is a future for increased investment.

Mr Edward Gardner (South Fylde, C): The strike has made it obvious that the time has come when the chairman of British Rail and his team should now learn how to express any agreement they reach with unions or anyone else in such clear and plain language that no one can later pretend they do not understand what has been agreed. (Conservative cheers.)

Mrs Thatcher: I agree fully with him that an agreement is not an agreement unless it is expressed and everyone understands its meaning.

□ Later, **Mr Leslie Huckfield (Nuneaton, Lab)** said that the settlement in the railway dispute provided a complete vindication of the position which Aslef had maintained throughout the dispute, and as a result of the settlement the British Railways Board had gained nothing that it could not have had last July.

He asked Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the House, to arrange for an early statement by the Transport Secretary on future policy on the railway industry and particularly his future policy on the chairman of the board.

Mr Pym: It is a great mistake to talk about a complete vindication or anything of that matter. We have a viable railway which serves the nation. I am doubtful whether a debate at this time would be helpful.

Unemployment costing about £5,000m a year

Most people would think it right that those who were in work should be better off than those who were not able to find work Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, said during questions on the cost of unemployment.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles): Has she seen the report, allegedly prepared by Treasury and Department of Employment officials, which puts the latest public cost of unemployment at £96 per head per week, and will she confirm that the present public expenditure cost of unemployment, is now running at £15,000m a year?

Mrs Thatcher: It depends on the assumption. In this current year the cost of unemployment judged by the amount paid out in unemployment benefit, the amount paid out in social security and rent and rate rebates, is of the order of £5,000m.

Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent, Lab): Was the Prime Minister disturbed to learn of the report by the Institute of Fiscal Studies which demolished the Conservative myth that people are better off on the dole than in work?

Now that it is confirmed that unemployed people are poorer as a direct result of Government policy, will she call off her attack upon unemployed people and so-called workshy people?

Mrs Thatcher: Most people will think it right that those who are in work should be better off than those who are unfortunately not able to find work. If they are unable to find work they will receive unemployment benefit, social security, rent rebates, free school meals for children, and so on.

NHS having to trim its administrative system

HEALTH SERVICE

Orders on the National Health Service regions and districts and on the constitution of district health authorities, were designed to simplify and decentralize the structure and so release money from administration to patient care, Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister for Health, said in asking for their approval.

He said they were the legal instruments to implement promises given in the Conservative manifesto to streamline the structure of the health service. This would produce a much better service for patients.

Everywhere there had been the feeling that authorites were too remote, there were too many committees and too much paper. Decisions were taking too long so that by the time they were reached the circumstances had often changed on the money was no longer available. Moral had been appallingly low.

The changes would sweep away not just one tier of administration but two and in the poecess there would be a 10 per cent saving in administration costs which could be transferred to patient care.

There had had to be a wait for boundary changes to be settled and for chairmen to be appointed, together with chief officers, in order that plans could be made for the health services in their particular districts. Most of these appointments had been made so that the task of completing management structures could be undertaken.

Each of the district health authorities would have just one chief officer team with a responsibility to advise the authrrity. In this way the present confusing, inefficient and expensive situation found in so many of the multiple district areas would be done away with.

The costs of salaries alone was about £100,000 a year for each team and these proposals would reduce the number of teams by nearly one quarter — from the present 251 to 193.

When these changes were fully implemented there would not just be the establishment of district health authorities but there would be a simpler, more effective management arrangement within each district.

The Government believed that they would be able to reduce the proportion of the resources they spent on monagement by 10 per cent. At present, authorities were spending around £320m a year on management — about 5.14 per cent of their resources. If the House agreed to these proposals authorities would be required to limit the management costs to no more than 4.62 per cent by the end of 1984/85.

They were entirely flexible on the names of the new authorities and had agreed to one or two changes. If a health authority wanted to change its name and other local interests agreed they would be glad to do that but it would mean laying further orders.

The decision had been taken to reduce the proportion of local authority members on the health authorities. He proposed that in general there should be four local authority members per district health authority. Arrangements had been made for a small number of additional places to cover special needs.

Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, Opposition spokeman on health (Crewe, Lab) said there were 39 district health authorities with a population of less than 150,000 spread throughout the country. It was not even clear whether the criteria took account of self-sufficiency in the new districts.

Some had been created in such a way that they were far larger than the target figure whereas at the other extreme some districts would have considerable difficulty in providing comprehensive health care.

When ministers talked about the right of the DHA's to make their own decisions and to establish their own priorities, they should also make it clear that they required finances to do so.

The Secretary of State should have sought to strengthen the planning links with the local users rather than paying lip service to the case that smaller districts would be able to respond to the needs of the community. Response to need was best demonstrated by taking the trouble to find out what the public really wanted, and not by imposing yet another unaccountable structure in the name of progress.

In future there would be far less planning; far les coordination because they did not seek to improve relationships with local authorities; far less exchange of information; and areas already in desperate need of finance for the mentally handicapped, the mentally ill and the chronically sick would not benefit from reorganization.

Many of them would find themselves in such small district health authorities, they would find it even harder to get a decent share of resources.

The Government had not in any way improved local democracy or participation of the public in the NHS. There would be muddle, confrontation and a total lack of encouragement for staff. There was no evidence of a clear overall Government strategy on improving and extending the NHS. Thirty years after its inception the imbalance between different areas of the service and regions of the country had not been redressed.

The Government had taken a large step into the dark and were not aware of what would meet them in the future. Just as the previous reorganization carried out by Conservative ministers was admitted to be at the very best inadequate and at worst damaging, so they would have to come before the end of this Parliament and admit they had made a mistake.

Mr Roland Moyle (Lewisham, East, Lab) said that in general he believed the reorganization of the health service was a good thing but he was opposed to the reorganization which was being proposed for the health service in Lewisham.

Lewisham wanted a district health authority based on the London borough of Lewisham boundaries, so that Lewisham people could run their own health affairs without interference from outside.

Canada Bill

The Canada Bill was read a second time later last night by 334 votes to 44 — Government majority, 290.

Mr Jonathan Aitken (Thanet, East, C) said that as someone whose father, grandfather and great-grandfather were Canadians, he rejoiced that Canada was to get its constitution.

Mr Clinton Davis, an Opposition spokesman of foreign and Commonwealth affairs, (Hackney, Central, Lab) said although the Opposition was recommending voting in favour of patriation of the constitution, it approached the Bill with misgivings and qualifications.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said they must consider that the Federal Parliament passed this resolution by a substantial majority in the House of Commons — 246 to 24. The vast majority of the Quebec MPs in the Federal Parliament — 72 out of 75 — supported the resolution which was passed through the House of Commons.

Leasehold Reform Bill rejected

HOUSE OF LORDS

The reform of leasehold tenure had been a leading political issue since 1889, Lord Evans of Claughton (L) said in moving the second reading of the Leasehold Reform Bill, which is designed to amend the Leasehold Reform Act 1967 and make further provision for enabling the tenants of leasehold houses to enfranchise their leases and acquire the freehold.

He said interest in this problem was excited not primarily because of the Liberal Party's historic commitment on this issue but for the much more practical purpose of trying to alleviate the plight of leaseholders particularly but not exclusively in south Wales. There, many thousands of families lived in small terrace houses lacking basic amenities.

The leases were coming to an end and the present occupants were being dunned for large sums of money by their standards to buy the freehold.

The 1967 Act tried to solve these problems but failed, first on the central issue of establishing a valuation formula for the purchase of the freehold. Secondly, the Act left many loopholes which prevented some leaseholders from acquiring the freehold of their properties.

The Earl of Kinnoull (C), moving an amendment to delay second reading for six months, which would have the effect of defeating it, said that viewed simply as a matter of law, the leasehold law was unique because it was not often that Parliament approved such a transfer of property rights from one private person to another. It could be justified only by compelling reasons.

It was a bad Bill which could lead to gross unfairness and misuse. It could not be usefully amended.

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, for the Opposition, said that the merits of the leasehold system were outweighed by its iniquities. While it remained legal to create new long leases, the possibility of future injustice remained.

The Marquess of Salisbury (C) said he questioned whether Lord Evans of Claughton had not gone a little far in some of his proposals. It was possible for an occupant to obtain a house cheaply and sell it quite soon afterwards at a largely enhanced value. Some people were making a regular business out of this operation.

The proposal to reduce the qualifying period during which a tenant had to occupy the house from three years to one would accentuate this process. It was an area that needed looking at.

Lord Harris of High Cross (Ind) said the objection in principle to the Bill was that it would extend the intervention of the state not for any general public purpose but to enable one party to breach a lawful agreement and enrich himself at the expense of others.

Lord Gisborough (C) said the effect was to widen and make even more confiscatory the provisions of the 1967 Act. The charities were worried lest the Bill further pillaged their funds and investment in leasehold properties.

Lord Bellwin, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said that it would be inappropriate to reduce the qualifying residence period for tenants to buy freeholds from three years, to which it was reduced in 1980, to one year. That would hardly be sufficient to provide the necessary safeguard against speculation.

The clause to get rid of future leaseholds would be easy to get round but was there sufficient reason to prevent parties from freely entering into a form of contract which they considered suited their particular circumstances?

He could see no justification for preventing parties from entering a leasehold arrangement.

The provisions for compensation in the Bill were more appropriate to compulsory purchase than to the Leasehold Reform Act.

Tenants of council houses in which the council had only a leasehold interest did not at present have a right to buy. The Government would be looking for an opportunity to introduce the measure as soon as the parliamentary timetable permitted.

He did not believe that leasehold was inherently a bod form of ownership. The changes proposed were neither justified nor desirable.

The amendment to reject second reading was carried by 81 votes to 59 — a majority against the Bill, — 22.

High court judge to head children's home inquiry

ULSTER

A committee with a High Court judge as chairman will sit in public after police investigations and any consequent criminal proceedings are complete, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said in a statement on the Kincora children's home and other matters.

Mr Prior said he did not propose to reconstitute the existing inquiry into homes and hostels for children and young persons but there was still a need to investigate the failure to identify earlier malpractices in some of them and to examine present policies and procedures for their administration.

He said the terms of reference of the inquiry and the powers it might need could not be determined until the results of the present investigations were known.

But I am anxious (he went on) that there should be no lasting cause for public disquiet that the truth has not been wholly discovered. The powers of the High Court to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents can only be conferred on a tribunal appointed under the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act 1921.

Because of its wide ranging inquisitorial powers this House has traditionally been wary of approving the appointment of a tribunal under the Act. In considering whether there is need for such tribanal I will take into account both the widespread concern about this affair and also the views of this House and the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Tribunals of Inquiry of 1966.

Meanwhile, as soon as evidence of malpractice came to light in 1980, steps were taken to improve the supervision and management of homes and hostels for children and young persons. This process is continuing vigorously, and the Secretary of State for Social Services (Mr Norman Fowler) is making further expert advice available to me.

Earlier, Mr Prior said that as a result of intensive police enquiries five persons in positions of responsibility in homes and hostels for children and young persons in Northern Ireland had been sentenced to imprisonment for sexual offences against those in their care.

At the conclusion of the trials he set up a committee to investigate past management of the Homes and to make recommendations for the future. I also said that there were still some outstanding matters being pursued by the police. Three of the members of the committee had since said that they felt unable to take part until all police enquiries were completed, but added that they would be glad to serve on a committee after that.

The cases have aroused widespread disquiet in Northern Ireland (he said) and have been accompanied by allegations or suggestions that there has been a cover-up to protect other guilty people from being prosecuted. It is being urged that a public judicial inquiry should investigate these and similar rumours.

If such an inquiry did disclose new criminal offences it would in the process have made it impossible for any offenders to be prosecuted either because immunities had had to be given or because the publicity which the disclosure would have received when the evidence was given in a public inquiry would make it impossible to find a jury which would not be seen as prejudiced.

It is essential to hold to the principle that allegations of criminal activities are investigated by the Police and that offenders are dealt with by the courts.

The Chief Constable has stated that further investigations are being pursued vigorously; that it is the duty of any person who has evidence or information about any relevant matter indicating a crime to come forward immediately and assist the police in the certainty that it will be fully investigated. He has also announced that he has requested HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary to appoint the Chief Constable of another force to investigate allegations about the way in which the police have conducted thier enquiries and in addition to have general oversight of the continuing investigations. In due course he will forward a report to the Chief Constable of the RUC, and the conclusions will be made public.

Mr Dennis Concannon, Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland (Mansfield, Lab): We agree that only a judicial inquiry can now sort out this sordid episode. Our only reservations are for the protecdtion of the innocent who are now older and have wives and families of their own. If they could give evidence with complete anonymity we would be pleased.

Mr Prior: If these innocent people have any allegations or information they should give it to the police. That could be done in confidence now.

It has always worried me that many innocent people can suffer severely with judicial inquiries of this nature. It is only when one reaches a serious position as we have now reached that we have to consider other methods.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, Off UU): How was he so seriously misled as to the scope and scale investigation still going on when he took his original decision?

When he considers the form of a future inquiry will he bear in mind, despite the objections to the 1921 type of inquiry, the indesirability of inventing new ad hoc forms of judicial inquiry?

Mr Prior: The House must consider seriously when the time comes if we should have a 1921 inquiry or not. I do not think I was ever misled. Since the departmental inquiry was set up, further evidence has become available and certain allegations have been made, including some made to the police. This put a different complexion on the need for a more extensive inquiry.

But if I underestimated the feeling in Northern Ireland it was in no way concerned with a cover-up

Mr Gerard Fitt (West Belfast, Soc): Under the 1921 Act would there be power for the inquiry to bring from prison people convicted in relation to allegations in Kincora?

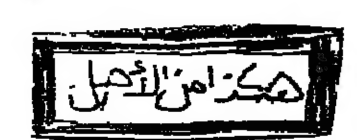
Would it be able to bring before the inquiry or the courts a Mr Colin Wallace, a former British army security spokesman who evidently gave a n interivew to journalists in 1975 making them aware of all aspects of Kincora? Feeling in Ulster is that the RUC, since the 1980 allegations, have acted with commendable zeal. But we want to know what the RUC was doing between 1961 and 1980.

Mr Prior: This is an urgent matter. The police regard it as such. On his last point, that will be relevant to the inquiry carried out by the chief constable of another constabulary.

If we decided to have a 1921 type inquiry, such an inquiry would have complete powers to call for evidence from whoever it desires.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private Members' Bills. Dogs (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill and Restrictive Trade Practices (Amendment) Bill, second readings.



Greet the Pope with open hearts, Runcie tells synod

By Clifford Longley Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, yesterday called upon the Church of England to welcome the Pope to Britain in May, to be optimistic about the prospects for unity with the Roman Catholic Church, and not to give way to prejudice and insularity.

The archbishop's presedential address to the General Synod set out to answer some of the fears and criticisms aroused by the prospect of the papal visit. He described the Pope's acceptance of his invitation to take part in a service in *Canterbury Cathedral* as "unprecedented in the history of the church in the West".

He also offered his support for the recent establishment of full diplomatic relations with the Holy See, as a symbolic gesture of reconciliation helping to "heal the wounds opened up in the sixteenth century".

Dr Runcie dealt with a series of questions, some of which reflected the anxieties to which he referred.

In addition to the predictable howls of "No Popery", he said, he had met many fair-minded people with reasonable qualms about the visit. In particular, he noticed "some anxiety which has been generated by the recent change in the level of diplomatic relations between this country and the oly See".

The Foreign Office had kept him informed of the progress of that matter, but had not been obliged to seek his agreement for the change, so there was no *possibility of the General* Synod discussing it in advance.

The anxieties on the matter were an expression of deeper suspicions, that the real differences between the two churches were being "fudged". He added: "But I am convinced that we must not allow ourselves to become imprisoned in antique feuds. It is *not the Christian* way to be frivolous about questions of truth, but it is certainly not the Christian way to greet a great Christian leader with a mind full of suspicious negativity and hostility." The Pope should be welcomed on a human level.

Dr Runcie said that when he had met the Pope in Africa he had been astonished by the depth and spiritual quality of his listening.

"We all know him to be a person of quick sympathy and deep affection. These qualities are part of his equipment as a very powerful world Christian evangelist. We welcome a great teacher of the Christian faith ans life, ans a global focus for loyalty, who is potentially a focus of unity."

Anglicans must learn to think of themselves as world citizens, members of a world community which had to cope with its problems together, of perish.

The accent during the Pope's Canterbury visit would be on the "faith that unites us", and he included in that the Free churches.

The General Synod would be invited to Canterbury Cathedral for the service as would all members of the Free Church Federal Council, which numbers more than 100. Free church leaders would have a prominent part to play in the service, and qouldalsotake part in a "serious and well-prepared" discussion with the Pope, followed by an informal *lunch. The Pope would be* present from mid-morning to mid-afternoon.

Dr Runcie insisted that the Anglican Communion should be consistent with the principles of its foundation, in particular that it should *check that it was proceeding* in reliance upon Scripture.

Tomark that, the visit was also an international occ*asion and Anglican primates* from overseas would be at Canterbury to greet the Pope.

In the course of the Caterbury service, the Pope would lead a representative group to pray at the Cathedral's Chapel of the Twentieth Century Martyrs, commemorating such figures as Martin Luther King, Archbishop Romero of Salvador, and Maximilian Kolbe, the Polish martyr of Auschwitz. That would symbolize the power of the Christian faith to evoke the deepest personal sacrifice.

Dr Runcie stated that the last report of the international theological commission of the two churches would be published next month. "A report on such a contentious area could not *fail to be controversial" — it* is understood to deal with papal infallibility and papal jurisdiction — "but I believe the commission has made real progress in clarifying and reconciling the two traditions", he said.

A successor commission would have to examine the status of Anglican holy orders in the eyes of the Roman Catholic Church, but he did not indicate that he expected that matter to be advanced during the Pope's visit.

"I believe, however, that it is more realistic to expect that the Pope's visit will deepen the atmosphere of mutual trust and respect."

"It would be *premature* to expect final resolution of the differences between us, but it *would be disastrous at this* stage to suggest that the pace and urgency of the desire to find solutions were flagging."

The Pope's willingness to attend the service at Caterbury "has already made a *contribution* to the seriousness and urgency of our search for unity".



The Archbishop of Canterbury, watched by Mr Derek Pattinson, secretary-general of the General Synod, voicing optimum on unity prospects in his address yesterday.

Rape complaints not believed, group says

From Our Correspondent Manchester

Almost half the women who complain of being raped in *Greater Manchester* are initially disbelieved by the police, Manchester Rape Crisis Line claims in a report issued yesterday.

Many of the women were called liars, the charity said and some had been insulted and abused and called "slags" or promiscuous. Young women had a particularly difficult time. If accompanied by their parents they were sometimes told that their parents did not believe them, or the parents were told that the girl had admitted to lying.

"Women were sometimes quistioned for up to 10 hours", the report said "in several cases they were so upset by the lengthy, harsh questioning and disbelief, that they gave up and withdrew their complaint".

The charity which was set up in March, 1980, complains that treatment varied between police stations and with individual officers. Although some women said they had been treated reasonably, the organization is concerned that police officers are often insufficiently informed and ill prepared to deal with women who have been raped.

The charity does not take up individual complaints about police behaviour because it wishes to preserve *the anonymity of the women* who telephone for help. In 95 cases investigated 12 found that only 47 had complained to the police. Of those, almost half the cases were not taken to court. More than a quarter were not investigated by the police or the women were pressed to drop charges, it claims.

The charity wants every woman who has been raped to be examined by a woman doctor. Mr James Anderton, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, told the county police committee this month that women doctors were available but admitted that the choice may not normally be given to raped women.

Mr Anderton said in a statement yesterday there has been no record of any complaint on behalf of a raped woman or girl from the Manchester Rape Crisis Line, and neither had a victim who may have consulted the crisis line objected to the manner in which police had handled their problems.

The Manchester Rape Crisis Centre have never notified me of any dissatisfaction or misgivings over police action or procedures for investigating allegations of rape", he said.

"Perhaps they will now be good enough to provide me with more details so that further police inquiries can be made." A copy of the report is being sent to him.

The charity said the police attitude "often leaves much to be desired". It wants better training for police officers. "A lot of training is *done* in police stations and traditional attitudes are passed on by long serving officers", said a spokeswoman.

"One of the main myths is that harsh questioning is necessary because there are a lot of false rape allegations. There is no evidence for that belief".

The charity is also unhappy about the legal definition of rape and added: "We also feel that to exclude rape within marriage is quite unjustified".

The statistics in the crisis line's first 18 months showed that only 28 per cent of rapists were strangers to their victims. Almost half were an acquaintance and 10 per cent were husbands or lovers.

□ A prisoner serving a life sentence for rape attacked a young woman after being allowed out for the day on a pre-release scheme (our Maidstone Correspondent writes). He dragged her into bushes at Mote Park, Maidstone, but she fought him off and escaped. At Maidstone Crown Court yesterday Ivor Jones, aged 31, admitted attempting to strangle the woman with intent to rape

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Man died while up a tree

A man who went woodcutting to provide fuel for his sister and her children duing the winter was later found dead in a tree.

Graham Griggs, aged 24, of Leewood Place, Swanley, was found on a branch eight ft from the ground in Bourne woods, Brook Road, Swanley, police constable Bill Riley, the Coroner's officer, said at an inquest in Croydon yesterday. It had been Mr Griggs's third trip to the woods that day.

The wall separating his two heart chambers had ruptured causing instant death, a pathologist, Dr Nigel Harcourt-Webster said. Mr Griggs had 270m of alchohol in every 100m of blood. A verdict of death by natural *causes was given.*

Dog owner on death charge

Mrs Olive Brown, aged 53, of Larner Road, Erith, Kent, was remanded on bail by Bexley magistrates yesterday accused of the manslaughter of a woman aged 72, who died from a heart attack after being bitten by two Dobermann Pinschers. She was remanded until May 18.

The charge alleges that last February *Mrs Brown* "knowing she was in control of two vicious dogs allowed them to attack the victim, Mrs Dorothy Gladys Dow, who died in hospital two days later."

£10,000 robbery

Five masked men who made a daylight raid on a sub-post office in Bedford Road, Bootle, yesterday, escaped with £10,000 in cash.

Murder charge

Howard Chamberlain, aged 33, was remanded in custody for a week by magistrates in Nottingham yesterday accused of murdering his wife, Susan, aged 34.

Benefit appeal disparity

By Frances Gibb

An disparity between the *length of time Social* Security Commissioners take to handle appeals from claimants and appeals from benefit officers is shown in a survey published by the Child Poverty Action Group today.

The group calls on the Lord Chancellor to investigate why the applications for leave to appeal on points of law take months to be dealt with if they are from claimants, yet weeks if from benefit officers.

The findings of a survey the group has conducted on supplementary benefit cases it has advised on since November, 1980 "give rise to serious concern at the long delays experienced by claimants and their representatives in obtaining a hearing *before the commissioners*".

Of the 31 cases dealt with since November 1980, 27 were appeals by claimants, of which only three have so far been heard by the commissioner, it says. The remainder are still awaiting leave to appeal. The other four, which were benefit officer appeals, have all been heard.

The average waiting time for leave to appeal in 15 cases taken up by the group up to September 1981 was six.

Six-and-a-half months, it says. Eleven of those 15 are still awaiting leave to appeal. But in the cases taken by the benefit officer, leave to appeal was granted in three cases in two-and-half weeks.

Move to end sharp, shock regime fails

By Amanda Haigh
Parliamentary Staff

About 7 per cent of young offenders sentenced to the Government's "short, sharp shock" pilot scheme had to be transferred to other detention centres because they were found to be mentally or physically unfit to undergo the regime, Mr Patrick Mayhew, *Minister of* Stte at the Home Office, announced yesterday during the committee stage of the Criminal Justice Bill.

He refused to accept an Opposition amendment to the Bill, which sought to abolish *borstal* training and provide for custodial sentences of between three weeks and four months in detention centres for male offenders aged between 14 and 21. The amendment would have required courts to obtain and consider reports on the physical and mental conditon of the youths before sentencing them to the detention centres.

The amendment was rejected by 12 votes to 6, the Social Democratic Party voting with the Opposition.

Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Ormskirk, who had moved the amendment, said that in the two years since the short, sharp shock regime had been on operation, 81 of the boys at New Hall, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, and 107 at Send, *Surrey, had been found* by the medical officer at those detention centres to have been sentenced inappropriately by the courts.

Mr Mayhew told him that was not a high proportion of cases. About 7 per cent of boys at the four such centres in operation had had to be transferred.

Dr Shirley Summerskill, for the Opposition, said that the conditions and regime in detention centres were such that they could be detrimental to some boys and were a possible threat to the mental and physical well-being of an offender.

The Opposition was against detention centres for any age and for either sex. They were no more suitable and appropriate for boys than they *were unsuitable* and inappropriate for girls.

Mr Mayhew said that the rate of reconviction form detention centres after two years was depressingly high.

Officers' lives 'in danger'

□ A warning on the dangers to life and limb of officers and prisoners at Strangeways jail, Manchester, was issued yesterday by Mrs Edna Redfern, chairman of the board of visitors (John Chartres writes from Manchester).

Mrs Redfern said that the board, looking back on 1981, could only view with alarm and despondency the falling standards in the prison service.

Her statement drew attention to the overcrowded conditions at Strangeways, a typical Victorian jail designed for about 1,000 prisoners and now housing more than 1,600.

That meant that the men were *locked up* for 23 hours a day and young people were being reclassified so that they could be put in the main prison.

College cooperative

A Renaissance dream in the East End

By Caroline Moorehead

Late on Wednesday night, after several weeks of hard campaigning, Mr Michael Murray, silversmith and a moving force in the small business crafts world, finally won his battle to convince the council in Hackney, east London, to let him turn a disused hospital into craft workshops. The Metropolitan Hospital in the Enfield Road, empty for more than four years, is to become a college of 250 craftsmen, a Renaissance guild of the 1980's.

The idea of setting up a *place where craftsmen* live and work is one that has been simmering in Mr Murray's mind since he formed his first cooperative of seven workshops in the East End of London 25 years ago.



Michael Murray: Tough campaigning

His search coincided with a realization by Hackney council that it could not afford to turn the Metropolitan Hospital into the new housing it had been planning. The council asked Mr Murray, by then an old friend, for advice.

This week, final details of the lease, a commercial 25 year lease from the council, are being settled.

The financing of the Metropolitan College of Craftsmen will essentially be that of his past cooperatives. Only the scale is different. The Department of Industry looks likely to act as guarantor for a loan of £70,000 raised from Lloyds Bank; the *Greater London Council* will probably put up a grant to pay the interest.

By the end of this year two floors should be in operation, the £70,000 having gone towards rewiring, installing a new heating system, and carrying out basic repairs.

A quarter of the 250 workshops have been taken, a performing arts cooperative, which is to take a section for rehearsal rooms, has been formed, and furriers, leather workers, fashion designers, joiners and photographers are expressing interest. (The Turkish Islamic Trust is considering taking the old morturary).

20 NATIONS IN TALL SHIP RACE

By Ronald Faux

Tall ships of the world will unite this year in Southampton, the finishing line for the latest in the biennial races between these elegant vessels. The port will be host between August 18 and 25 to more than 80 square riggers, schooners, and lesser vessels from 20 nations.

Announcing details of the event, the organizers said that more than 2,000 trainees would take part in the crews of the various ships.

The tall ships will set out from Falmouth on July 25 on the first race of the series to Lisbon. In Portugal the fleet will meet the transatlantic tall ships that will have raced across from Newport. The combined fleet will then sail for Southampton.

Among the larger vessels expected to take part in the races, sponsored by Cutty Sark, is the 3,000-ton Russian Fisheries Board barque Kruzenshtern that has competed in the race since 1974. It is hoped that the Polish merchant navy's recently launched square rigger, Dar Mlidziezy, will take part in her first world event.

Other square riggers expected to take part are the Gorch Fock, of the West German Navy, and the Portuguese barque, Sagres.

These aristocrats of the sea will be supported by many schooners, including the Sail Training Association's Sir Winston Churchill, crewed by boys, and the Malcolm Miller, crewed by girls.

'HIGH LIFE' QUESTIONS FOR STERN

William Stern, the former property tycoon who went bankrupt in 1978 with debts of £118m, is to be questioned by creditors about his lifestyle.

Mr Stern's application to be discharged from bankruptsy after offering to pay his creditors £55,000 over three years was described in the Court of Appeal yesterday as impudent. The court ruled that the application should be continued before a High Court Judge for Mr Stern to be cross-examined by creditors.

Lord Justice Templeman said: "The amassing of these colossal debts calls for some less *specious explanation* than that so far provided." It was unjust that the creditors should not have been allowed to put to the bankrupt allegations of "rash and hazardous speculation".

The court allowed an appeal against the refusal of the London Bankruptcy Court to allow cross-examination.

Mr Stern, aged 48, now a property consultant, had lived "a Rolls-Royce existence". In 1980, he earned £22,000 and received a gift of £12,000 from a family trust. His £5,000 mortgage payments on his home in Golders Green, North-west London, said to be worth £1m, were also paid by the trust.

Mr Stern was ordered to pay the costs of both the Court of Appeal and Bankruptcy Court hearings. Leave of appeal to the House of Lords was refused.

Crisis in Zimbabwe

Mugabe youths demand 'Shoot Nkomo'

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, Feb 18

Police and army units maintained tight security control over Zimbabwe's main cities today but there was no immediate sign of a backlash against the dismissal of Mr Joshua Nkomo from the Government.

Up to 5,000 demonstrators jogged through the streets of Salisbury this morning chanting and carrying placards calling for Mr Nkomo's imprisonment.

Roadblocks monitored traffic around the capital and Mr Nkomo's political stronghold, Bulawayo, which was reported by sources in the city to be peaceful and subdued. Army reinforcements are believed to have been moved into the Bulawayo area.

The Zimbabwe Information Service — an an arm of the Ministry of Information — put out a report that in Marandellas, a town east of here, a full-size black coffin had been paraded by demonstrators "to signify the 'death' of Mr Nkomo". The report also said a youth wing of the ruling Zanu (PF) party had clled for the veteran leader "to be executed by firing squad".

Investigations are meanwhile continuing into the possibility of charging Mr Nkomo and other senior members of his party with possessing weapons of war, after the discovery of big arms caches on Patriotic Front farms. Mr Mugabe said yesterday that the dismissals were only political action and that criminal proceedings might be brought against those responsible for the caches.

The dismissals effectively scrapped the coalition between the forces of Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe; forged at independence in April 1980. It also raised the prospect of dissaffection among Mr Nkomo's Ndebele supporters who constitute about 18 per cent of the population, and even of further faction fighting which has claimed more than 400 lives since Independence. Four leading members of the Government, two ministers and two deputy ministers, survived the purge of those alleged by Mr Mugabe to have been involved in a conspiracy.

Mr Cephas Msipa, the Deputy Minister of Manpower, made it known today that he would be staying in the Government. The other three have not revealed their intentions but at least one minister is thought likely to heed Mr Nkomo's call to quit the Cabinet.

The statements and the street demonstrations appeared to be part of a continuing campaign against Mr Nkomo. The *Herald* newspaper in Salisbury gave no coverage today to Mr Nkomo's expressed hope for continued peace. Nor did it publish his rejection of Mr Mugabe's allegation that he had sought South African assistance for a coup at independence. Mr Nkomo dismissed this allegation as "lies".

The newspaper did, however, carry a statement by Mr Dumiso Dabengwa, the former supreme commander of Mr Nkomo's Zipra force. Mr Dabengwa, who retired last year but has been mentioned by government sources in connexion with the caches, said that the weapons had been concealed, not to launch a coup, but "by Zipara cadres for their own protection".

He said that the trust between the Nkomo and Mugabe forces, built up at Lancaster House, had broke down soon afterwards. The atmosphere at Entumbne, culminating in the disarming exercises when the arms were cached.

Mr Nkomo was understood to have remained in Salisbury today when the Cabinet met for th first time without him. Callers at his Highfields home were told he was "away at present".

News analysis

Deep-rooted conflict split two leaders

From Our Correspondent, Salisbury, Feb 18

The dismissal of Mr Joshua Nkomo from Zimbabwe's coalition Government marks a watershed in the country's short history and the end of a long-uneasy alliance between two ill-suited political partners.

Mr Nkomo, the burly father figure of the nationalist movement in Zimbabwe, always looked incongruous alongside Mr Robert Mugabe, the ascetic Marxist who was catapulted to international prominence and unquestioned leadership of the country by the independence elections.

Mr Nkomo was the old-style union official who made it to the top of the political pile through magnetism and muscle. Mr Mugabe was the intellectual who emerged at the end of a power struggle, which was crippling his party, and imposed a sense of resolution and discipline which enabled it to win the 1980 election by a landslide.

If the time has come to write Mr Nkomo's political epitaph, it may be that of the three black leaders who emerged from the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland he was the only one never to lead his country. President Kaunda of Zambia and President Banda of Malawi were his contemporaries and comrades.

The arms finds which led to his ignominious dismissal this week were clearly an incendiary issue in a country so recently at war but the falling out with Mr Mugabe goes deeper.

The two men have been on opposite political sides for most of their lives. In addition to basic personality differences, the relationship was marked by the nature of their political support — Mr Mugabe drawing allegiance from the Shona-speaking tribes of the east and Mr Nkomo getting his support from their arch-rivals, the Ndebele of the west.

During the long struggle against white rule after Mr Ian Smith's unilateral declaration of independence in November 1965, Mr Mugabe and his Zanu (PF) party believed with some justification that their Zanla guerrillas bore the brunt of the figthing. Mr Nkomo's Zipra forces, although sponsored by the Soviet Union and equipped with the latest in Russian weaponry, were never fully committed by their leaders to the conflict.

Zanla leaders suspected that Mr Nkomo was waiting for their guerrillas and the Rhodesians to wear each other out before stepping in and stealing the limelight. This mutual suspicion also characterized the final round of independence talks which began at Lancaster House in London in the autumn of 1979 hard on the heels of the Commonwealth summit conference at Lusaka.

Although both Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe had joined forces under the Patriotic Front umbrella long before the Lancaster House talks, it was evident during the negotiations that Mr Nkomo was much more willing to compromise than Mr Mugabe. Whenever the 101 days od talks looked as though they were about to collapse, it was invariably because Mr Mugabe was digging in his heels.

At the time it was generally assumed that Mr Nkomo and his supporters would win the elections which finally paved the way to independence and majority rule. In the event it came as a deep shock to a man who regarded himself as one of the founding fathers of the nationalist movement in Africa to be trounced at the polls.

In the light of the traditional suspicion between the groups — and in spite of the clear mandate of the elections — Mr Mugabe's subsequent actions were both magnanimous and politically astute. Mr Nkomo and the Patriotic Front were offered a place in a government of national unity at the same time as Mr Mugabe was extending the hand of reconcilaiation and friendship to his erstwhile enemies, the whites.

It was amid these events that Zimbabwe was born in an atmosphere of heady optimism which, while never obscuring the underlying perils, made real for the first time the possibility of a peaceful transfer of power.

That short-lived era of national unity appears to be over.

The alliance could not conceal what were essentially tribal and regional tensions. In the months after independence, Patriotic Front supporters came to believe that Mr Nkomo was being denied his share of the limelight.

Through bouts of faction fighting in November, 1980, and February, 1981, between former guerrillas, the suspicion among Patriotic Front members grew that the coalition was merely cosmetic, concealing attempts by Zanu (PF) to consolidate power in such a way that it would never be replaced.

Since then the frequent raising by Mr Mugabe and others of his party of plans to make Zimbabwe a one-party state have done nothing to reassure the concerned.

For their part, Zanu (PF) members came increasingly to see Mr Nkomo as an irritant, an aging political hack more concerned with feathering his own nest than establishing an egalitarian society. Eventually fear of an armed uprising by the Ndebele, a warrior nation descended from the Zulu, proved the deciding factor.

News in Pictures: Manuel Barriopedro won first prize in the 1982 World Press Photo Contest with this photograph of Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Tejero on the podium of the Spanish Parliament during his abortive coup attempt last February.

13 crew missing in Cape collision

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg, Feb 18

Thirteen of the 190 crew members of the President Kruger, a 2,250 ton South African naval frigate which sank after a pre-dawn collision today, 80 nautical miles south of Cape Point, were still missing tonight after an all-day air and sea rescue operation.

Vice-Admiral Ronald Edwards, the Chief of the Navy, described the accident, which occurred in heavy seas and high winds, as "very very sad". He said: "We will continue to search for the missing people until there is no further object in looking for them".

Of the 177 crew who had been rescued , two were reported to have been flown to hospital by helicopter. One had swallowed large amounts of sea water and diesel oil, and the other was suffering from lacerations, exhaustion and shock.

The doomed frigate collided at 4.22am with a fleet replenishment tanker, the 19,000 ton Tafelberg, and sank just over an hour later. Both ships had been taking part in night manoeuvres. The Tafelberg was able to limp home.

The President Kruger was one of three Type 12 frigates bought from Britain under the terms of the Simonstown agreement before it was terminated in the mid-1970s.

The ship was built in the Yarrows yard on the Clyde and launched in 1960. Originally intended for the Royal navy, it was later sold to the South Africans to help protect the Cape sea route against submarine attack.

With the ending of the Simonstown agreement, however, and the imposition of an embargo on sales of arms to South Africa, the role of the Navy has been largely reduced to inshore patrolling and harbour protection. The Navy has fewer than 5,000 men and only a score or so of vessels.

Describing the accident, Vice-Admiral Edwards said the commander of the frigate realized about 15 minutes after the collision that the hull of his ship was so severely damaged that it *could no longer stay afloat* and he then gave the order to abandon ship.



The doomed frigate: Sunk in a pre-dawn collision.

Forces cut proposal by Russia

By David Cross

The Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies yesterday submitted what they said was "a new, important initiative" at the long-running and stalled East-West talks to reduce armed forces in central Europe.

The initiative, tabled in Vienna where the so-called mutual Balanced Forces Reductions talks have been in progress since 1973, was described as a "comprehensive document containing all necessary components of an accord which makes it possible to start practical reduction of the level of military confrontation in the centre of the European continent".

The Soviet News agency Tass also claimed that the draft agreement balanced carefully the security interests of all the states taking part in the Vienna talks: "socialist and capitalist, big and small, direct participants and countries having a special status at the talks".

The document for intial cuts in Soviet and American troops stationed in Europe by 20,000 and 13,000 men respectively. This first step would eventually lead to a reduced total of 900,000 men on each side of the East-West border.

A Warsaw Pact spokesman in Vienna said that the draft had taken into account the views of both sides and included all points where an accord had been reached.

Doubts on Soviet Ship cargo

From John Best
Ottawa, Feb 18

Mystery today surrounded the sinking of a Soviet cargo ship in a North Atlantic storm on Tuesday with the loss of all but five of its 38 crew.

Mr Joe Clark, the Conservative Opposition leader, told reporters yesterday that the strange behaviour of the crew of the 4,200-tonne Mekhanik Tarasov "raises questions" about its cargo.

The crew, led by the captain, waved away a Danish trawler which wa in the vicinity — about 250 miles east of Newfoundland — and which could have made a rescue attempt. Instead they desperately clung to the doomed ship, awaiting a Soviet fish-factory ship which arrived too late.

Earlier, Mr John Roberts, told the Commons that 12 containers of uranium hexafluoride which were to have been shipped to Russia from Canada on board the Mekhanis Tarasov had been sent on board another Soviet vessel.

When it went down, th Mekhanik Tarasov was about 75 miles east of where the Mobil Canada oil rig, Ocean Ranger sank early on Monday with the loss of all 84 men on board.

The Defence Department's rescue coordination centre in Halifax today denied a report that the Mekhanik Tarasov was on its way to help the crew of the Ocean Ranger. It was in fact sailing in the opposite direction.

The coup that failed

Spanish Army in the dock

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Feb 18

Spain's armed forces have no tradition of obedience to the Government. If the court martial beginning tomorrow in Madrid of three Army generals and 29 other officers, all charged with conspiracy to overthrow the Government last February, ends with heavy sentences for the principal figures, a page of Spanish history will have been turned.

The seizure of Parliament in session at gunpoint by Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio Tejero in his three-cornered black hat, and accompanied by nearly 300 Civil Guards, was caught live by Spain's state television cameras, and subsequently went round the world.

The verdict, and the sentences of those allegedly involved behind the scenes of the coup plot, such as Lieutenant-Generals Jaime Milans del Bosch and Alfonso Armada Comyn, will represent the judgment of 17 brother generals, trying them on the role of the armed forces in contemporary society.

The court martial could start a constitutionalist tradition for Spain's armed forces, as they prepare for Nato. Or it could be a justification for that intervention in politics summed up by the Spanish word *Golpsimo* ("coupism") by putting democracy itself on trial.

Older generations of Spaniards who lived under Franco tend to accept the pretensions of the military. The trial, especially after sentencing, will test the courage of the younger, more democratic generations in standing up for the constitution, through the force of public opinion.

Franco modelled his Army on the victorious side in the civil war which had overthrown the Republic, making it the backbone of his authoritarian system. All the officers on trial for military rebellion, and those on the Supreme Council of Military Justice trying them, spent at least part of their careers serving him.

Until the coup attempt, the armed forces had accepted somewhat ambiguously the transition to a parliamentary democracy.

The Government of Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, voted into office in the turmoil of the coup aftermath, decided that the bulk of the Army, which had stayed loyal to King Juan Carlos, their Commander-in-chief, during the night of February 23, should try the *golpistas*. Only if the sentencees involve more than three years' imprisonment will disobedience to the civilian government come before Spain's civilian Supreme Court on appeal. The military prosecutor has demanded 30 years each, the maximum, for two of the generals and for Colonel Tejero.

There was much debate inside the army in the months leading up to the trial. A minority of hardcore right-wingers has been noisily hailing as martyrs figures like General Milans, the Captain-General of Valencia who declared martial law on February 23, and put his tanks on the streets. Similarly Colonel Tejero has been turned into a cult figure by extremist circles.

A majority of the officer corps, described by a leading pro-Government general as "the silent majority, unwilling to be manipulated", remains uneasy about democracy and the break-up of traditional social values, but believes in unity, discipline and obedience to the service hierarchy. On the night of the coup only three captains-general declared swiftly for the King, expressing the commanders' anguished desire for unity — or, more bluntly, to be once again on the winning side.

Brother officers from all the military regions will be present as observers at the trial, and the conduct of General Milans, a skilled and admired commander from a well-connected family, could be decisive. If found guilty, he risks dismissal from the Army, and could become a dangerous rallying point.

More explosive, however, will be the expected attempt by the defence to invoke the King as a supposed ally of the conspirators. In his New-Year address to the armed forces, King Juan Carlos, whose conduct on the night of the coup was decisive, described as a "calumny" extreme right-wing campaigns to involve him in a coup against democracy. He expressed his confidence that the trial would reveal the truth.

Unfortunately, the king lacks in critical times the aristocracy's clear support. Señor Alberto Oliart, the Defence Minister, has sent 75,000 copies of the address to unit commanders, urging them to abide by the trial verdict.

Worries about the Government's failure to bring to trial more than one civilian — Señor Juan Garcia, a former Franco trade union boss is well-known but hardly an important figure — have been confirmed by the prosecutor's final charges, handed to the defence last week. This failure helps the extreme right to contend that "the Army is on trial". Constitutionalist officers have legitimately complained that some influential civilians have been permitted to remain in the shadows.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Greeks call Kyprianou to Athens

Athens. — Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, asked President Kyprianou of Cyprus to come to Athens urgently (Mario Modiano writes). The reason was not disclosed. Mr Kyprianou said he would fly to Athens first thing this morning.

An official press release later disclosed that "information about probable developments in the Cyprus issue, had made necessary an urgent meeting" of the two men. Their talks would continue until tomorrow.

What adds to the mystery is that President Kyprianou spent a week in Athens until January 28 after comprehensive talks here and Mr Papandreou himself is due to visit Cyprus at the end of this month. Originally, the Greek Prime Minister was going to Cyprus at the beginning of this month but his trip was put back, according to press speculation for fear of some Turkish-Cypriot reaction, such as a declaration of an independent state in northern Cyprus.

Australian doubt on carrier sale

Reports of a further delay over an Australian Government decision to buy the British aircraft carrier HMS *Invincible* have been greeted *with stoicism in* Whitehall (Henry Stanhope writes).

The fresh delay has been caused by scepticism among Austrtalian backbenchers who are querying the need to buy Invincible — offered at what Britain considers a bargain £175m.

Stiff upper lip for Turks

Ankara. — The Turkish Government has ordered all male state employees to shave daily and not to grow beards or drooping moustaches, and it told women workers to keep their hair neatly combed and wear stockings, but never short or slit skirts.

The regulations appeared to reflect the military regime's desire not only for discipline but to eradicate political or religious symbols associated with hairstyles or dress.

Soviet denial on germs

Madrid — The Soviet Union in a note distributed at the European Security Review Conference, denied it ever used chemical weapons "anywhere under any circumstances or by any means" (Richard Wigg writes). American charges that it is using chemical and bacteriological weapons in central and South-east Asia were dismissed as "a monstrous accusation, false from beginning to end."

Oilmen kidnapped in Lebanon

Sidon — Two oil company executives, one of them an American named as Thomas Anderson, deputy director of the petroleum distribution company Medco, were abducted by gunmen while on their way to an oil refinery near this south Lebanese port.

Kidnapped with him was Ghalib Ali Ahmid. Company officials said the refinery was closed in protest and the workers sent home. The police had no idea who the kidnappers were.

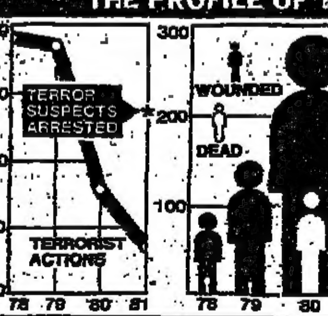
Cautious optimism in Rome

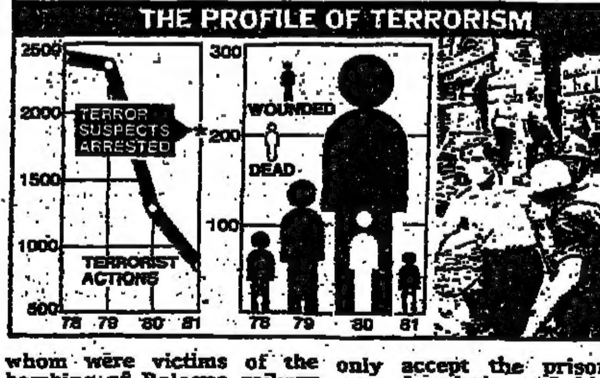
Italian terrorist strikes are falling off

From Peter Nichols
Rome, Feb 18

The number of terrorists and suspected terrorists held in Italian prisons is now 1,869. Another 310 are being hunted.

some 239 were arrested between December 17 and February 15 when 51 terrorists based throughout the country were discovered including the Padua flat in which the Red Brigade were holding Brigadier-General James Dozier, Deputy Chief of Staff at the Verona Nato base. He was the first non-Italian victim of the terrorists.





This extraordinary success at the turn of the year helped to concentrate attention on the real prospects of reducing terrorism which the Government still approaches with caution despite the statistics giving some grounds for optimism.

Figures compiled by the Ministry of the Interior show that the number of terrorist action each year has been falling since 1979. In that year there were 2,366 incidence compared to 2,395 in the preceding year. In 1980 the drop was sharper, to 1,264. The 1981 total was 849.

The number of dead and wounded reflect a different picture: In 1978 these were 25 dead and 99 hurt. In 1979 the figures were 22 and 149 respectively but 1980 shows a huge increase — 120 dead and 288 injured most of whom were victims of the bombing of Bologna railway station which killed 80 people. Last years total was 26 dead and 70 injured.

The Bologna bombing is generally regarded as the classic case of terrorism committed by the extreme right which is seen to be indiscriminate in its terrorist activities, seeking simply to cause the deepest amount of shock with the greatest amount of death and destruction.

The far left is seen to be more likely to make its effect by destroying chosen targets. Of the terrorists and suspected terrorists held in prison at the turn of the year, 410 claimed to be from the extreme right as opposed to 1,220 from the extreme left.

The distinction is not always easy to make and is becoming less so. In some cases, the investigators can only accept the prisoner's own description of his allegiance. Last year, 113 different terrorist organizations claimed responsibility for 229 of the 848 terrorist actions. Of the 113 groups some 91 were seen as belonging to the extreme left and most of the rest to the extreme right.

The Red Brigades were, however, well ahead of any other organization with 61 actions including many of the most important ones, but their commanding position has been weakened by internal differences, less tough recruits and a growing readiness to give evidence instead of claiming simply to be prisoners of war.

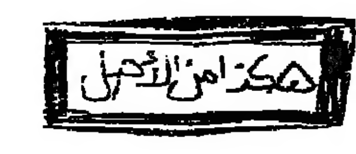
The Red Brigades claim the largest share of kidnappings marked by political aims. They started the series in 1973 by seizing Signor Idalgo Macchiarini, an executive of the Siemens company in Milan. There have been 23 political kidnappings and the Red Brigades organized 16 of them.

Their activities have included the most famous victims from Signor Aldo Moro, the Christian Democratic former Prime Minister *who was kidnapped in March* 1978 and later murdered, to General Dozier who was seized in his Verona flat on December 17.

The latest victims in this series of kidnappings point to a paradox in Italian terrorism: the terrorists show sensitivity to public opinion in their choice of victim but an inability to transform this sensitivity into behaviour which would have a real effect on the thinking of the ordinary Italians.

They kidnapped Signor Ciro Cirillo, a Christian Democratic politician from the Naples area, in April 1981, with the apparent aim of exploiting the widespread discontent with the way in which the Government handled aid after the great earthquake in the south. In May, 1981, they kidnapped and murdered Signor Giuseppe Taglierdo, a Montedison executive, following up a month later with the kidnapping of Signor Renzo Sandrucci, of Alfa Romeo—both actions presumably intended to impress factory workers.

Their next victim, Signor Roberto Peci, was the brother of an accused terrorist.



Warsaw leaders caught on hop by swoop report

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Feb 18

The Polish authorities were baffled today by the sharp Western response to a report of a routine police swoop that was originally intended to do little more than remind the population of the need for martial law and give the increasingly bored troops a renewed sense of purpose.

As news filtered through of the United States State Department's disapproval and the angry response of Western delegates at the Madrid conderence on European security, Polish officials began to call in journalists (a rare occurrence) to find out what the fuss was about.

The problem is the result of a two-day operation at the end of last week code-named "tranquility" which coincided with a general show of military and police force in the capital.

The immediate aim was to remind the people of the strength of the security units in case any protest was planned on February 13 to mark the two months of martial law.

According to a PAP news agency report, the checking of 51,000 shops, 60,000 vehicles and 3,500 "criminal haunts" (a somewhat vague category), demonstrated "that the observance of martial law regulations is not as good as it might be".

There were 145,000 infringements, 99,000 people had their identity checked and were "cautioned" while another 29,000 were "reminded of their duties". In the latter category was *The Times* correspondent who had forgotten one of the three documents that journalists are supposed to carry with them.

The real Western concern, one Polish official told me, having listened to Radio Free Europe the previous evening, was a figure of 3,500 "detentions" published by PAP.

In fact these people were held for a matter of hours, the majority of them for traffic offences. The International Television News correspondent, Mr John Underwood, for example, was taken to a militia station after driving the wrong way down a one-way street and freed soon afterwards.

Some 4,000 cases have been referred to minor offences courts (such as being insolent to a policeman or having faulty brakes), 614 of which involved a direct infringement of martial law. This figure, officials say, refers largely to curfew violations or the sale of alcohol. They concede, however, that another figure — 252 people suspected of committing crimes — might include some Solidarity activists.

What seems to have happened is that Poland has fallen victim to its own newly reinstated practice of exaggerating the statistics of success, whether it be in coal production or the achievements of security forces.

At the end of the operation, patrols had to submit numbers of people whom they had stopped and questined and in many cases they rather overstated the figures, lest they be accused of poor vigilance.

The problem, one Western diplomat said here today, is that such statements confuse the theatre of martial law with its reality. The reality lies in the rarely trumpeted announcements of summary trials. Yesterday another three mine workers were sentenced to three and a half years' jail each for trying to organize a work stoppage. There is also an increasing concern, especially in the Baltic region, about the resurgence of organized opposition.

According to unofficial sources, eight telegraph transmitters have been stolen from a marine enterprise near Gdansk, with the intention of establishing clandestine contacts with Warsaw.

Although Solidarity leaders still underground — above all Mr Zbigniew Bujak — have urged the opposition to operate in isolated cells, the opposition is evidently building itself a sophisticated infrastructure.

The suspended organizations have not withered away. Thus the suspended students' union, NZS, is understood to be organizing a demonstration in Warsaw.

□ The Polish Government has ordered price cuts for a number of dairy products including cheese and butter, the official PAP news agency reported.

It did not give the new prices for the commodities which were nearly quadrupled at the beginning of this month, but said that reductions would mean higher government subsidies. The agency also reported a reduction in the prices of television sets giving as an example the colour set which had been reduced by about 26 per cent to £580.

□ Copenhagen: Denmark has refused to authorize the release of 10,000 balloons — carrying messages from the Paris offices of Solidarity — towards Poland from a Danish ship in the Baltic Sea,

□ New York: American bankers, encouraged by interest payments made so far by Poland, may allow the Poles to re-schedule their 1981 commercial bank debt soon, banking sources said.

Hopes rise for UN's Afghan initiative

From Zoriana Pysariwsky
New York, Feb 18

The long becalmed United Nations initiative on Afghanistan may be heading for a breakthrough.

Intimations of willingness from all the parties involved to cast aside their uncompromising positions and begin serious negotiations have gone far enough to prompt the United Nations to draw plans for the convening of so-called proximity talks with Pakistan and Iran, on the one hand, and the Soviet-backed Kabul Government on the other.

The timing of such talks is still unsettled but discussions about them are viewed with guarded optimism. Nevertheless, the new situation appears to have encouraged Señor Javier Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, to speak openly about real prospects for a meeting of minds.

In a recent interview he expressed confidence that immediately after a tour of the region by his special representative on Afghanistan, expected to be named on Friday, attentio could be focused on the arrangements for the proximity talks.

Privately United Nations officials are saying that the immediate task of the special representative will be to work out an agenda which will deal with two issues critical for an overall settlement — complete withdrawal of Soviet occupying troops, and a guarantee of Afghanistan's sovereignty.



Papal embrace: A child greeting the Pope on his arrival in Malabo.

Pope thanks his persecuted faithful

From Godfrey Morrison, Libreville, Gabon, Feb 18

The Pope flew to Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, today to thank the faithful in one of Africa's most Catholic countries for remaining steadfast in the face of horrific persecution and to offer the present Government his church's cooperation.

African papal sources said that the Pope's visit to Equatorial Guinea was regarded by him as one of his most important visits since the church there had suffered grievously during the 11 years rule of President Francisco Macias Nguema.

During the Macias presidency hundreds of people died and all Roman Catholic missionaries were expelled. Thousands of people were sent into forced labour in the cocoa plantations and 50,000 foreigners, most of them Nigerians, were deported.

Macias Nguema was overthrown in 1979 by his nephew Colonel Teodoro Obiang Nguema, who now heads a military Government that is trying to rebuild the country's ravaged economy.

On his arrival in Malabo, the Pope told him: "I am sure that the moral reserves of the Guinean people will bring about a climate of mutual collaboration that will implant the conditions of a proper morality, both public and private, and lead to a real spiritual and material progress."

A cheering crowd of 10,000 people greeted the Pope on his arrival in Equatorial Guinea, the last country of his four-nation African tour.

The Pope's words of encouragement will undoubtedly come as a great boost for the military Government whose efforts to reestablish normality in this small country of only about 350,000 people — 90 per cent of whom are Catholics — has not been helped by the world recession.

Only Idi Amin of Uganda rivalled Macias Nguema, who was executed shortly after the coup which overthrew him, as an African tyrant.

The former President was certainly mentally unbalanced during the later stages of his rule, being widely credited with practising canibalism. Among his many despotic acts were mass murders, the murder by defenestration of at least one of his ministers, and building a wall around Malabo Cathedral to prevent Catholics worshipping there.

The Pope made a particular point of expressing confidence in Bishop Rafael Marianze who was exiled by Macias Nguema in 1972.

Bacteria may help to shrink computers

From Christopher Thomas
New York, Feb18

The speed of technological advance in the United States is threatening to make the silicon chip start showing its age. Scientists are now talking about growing computer components in a test tube.

Already a few laboratories are experimenting with the idea of combining electronics and genetic engineering to produce computer parts from bacteria.

The result would be a computer much smaller and much more powerful than anything in existence today. Research workers are predicting a device the size of a football with the capacity of a cray, the most powerful computer available — although the hypothesis is probably at least 20 years from reality.

The smallest dimension at present is about one micron, a millionth of a metre. Advocates of the chemical approach believe that molecular elements will form the breakthrough to smaller computers. Mr Forrest Carter, head of molecular electronics at the naval research laboratory in Washington, said that hundreds of molecular elements could fit a line one micron in length.

IBM's research centre has synthesized a molecule in which two protons and two electrons — components of and atom's nucleus — can shift position.

American social issues, 3

Congress challenge on black voting rights

This article on black voting rights by Peter David is the last of three by Our Washington Staff on social issues facing Congress. The first, on busing, appeared on February 5: the second, on abortion, appeared on February 9.

President Reagan's troubled relationship with black leaders will be subjected to new strains in the coming weeks when Congress begins debate on an issue most Americans believe was settled more than 100 years ago — the right of black people to vote.

A powerful group of conservative Republicans in the Senate has begun a campaign to stop Congress agreeing to renew and strengthen the 1965 Voting Rights Act, a landmark law which forced the reluctant Southern states to allow blacks to exercise their constitutional franchise.

Parts of the Act expire in August and the House of Representatives has already voted 389 to 24 in favour of a Bill renewing the Act and making it easier to prove violations of minority voting rights.

More than 60 senators have also promised to support the Bill but an influential minority, supported by the President, wants to modify it and relax some of the safeguards.

The Senate judiciary committee, which began hearings on the Bill this month, has already been the scene of sharp clashes between liberal senators and Administration officials. Senator Edward Kennedy, who wants the Senate to adopt the House Bill without modifications, accused the Administration of undermining civil rights and said the changes it sought would turn the Act into "an empty shell".

The differences between the two sides centre not on the principle of fair voting but on a technical debate about how the Act should work. The technicalities, however, reflect deep political differences between the Northern and Southern states and philosophical disagreements between liberals and conservatives about the definition of racial discrimination.

Blacks won the right to vote in 1870 under the Fifteenth Amendment, but in the South many were prevented from doing so for nearly a century by intimidation, poll taxes and fraudulent literacy tests.

Goaded by violent civil rights protests, President Johnson introduced the Voting Rights Act in 1965. It abolished the literacy tests and other barriers to black voting. It also stripped six Southern states, where voting had been most restricted, of their authority to make even minor changes in election procedures without "pre-clearance" from the Federal Government.

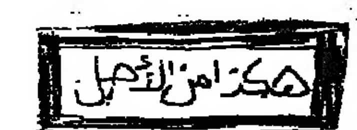
The House Bill would continue this pre-clearance clause and has infuriated Southern Republicans. They say the Bill treats the South as if it were still a conquered territory, and they find it humiliating to have to ask Washington to approve such details as the position of polling booths in local elections.

Senator Strom Thurmond, the South Carolina Republican who chairs the judiciary committee, wants to enable states with clean voting records to free themselves from federal surveillance. Civil rights leaders vehemently oppose such a change. They fear that the Southern states, left to their own devices, would reorganize their voting districts to swamp the politically potent black vote in large white majorities.

The President and his Senate allies have another more fundamental objection to the House Bill. The new Bill defines voting discrimination as a practice that has the "effect" of discriminating against minorities. President Reagan believes it should be necessary to prove that voting practices "intend" to discriminate.

Both sides concede the Voting Rights Act has been an outstanding success in encouraging blacks to vote. Promising to renew the Act last November, President Reagan said: "The right to vote is the crown jewel of American liberties and we will not see its lustre diminished."

But it is hard to see how Congress can agree on a Bill which could satisfy both civil rights groups and the conservative Republicans,



NEWS IN SUMMARY

Oil victims stage a sit-in

Madrid.—Forty people suffering from the effects of Spain's nine-month old toxic cooking oil tragedy, or members of their families, began a sit-in in a church at Reinosa, near Santander on the Cantabrian coast (Richard Wigg writes).

They are demanding swift payment of full assistance to the victims, including children under 16, as well as stricter application generally of food safety regulations. They described their sit-in as indefinite and in no way connected with a similar protest in Madrid churches last weekend.

In Parliament, the Socialist Party urged the Government to order the official clinical commission investigating the disaster to study the effectiveness of acupuncture and homeopathic treatment and to pass the results on to the victims.

Football star out of danger

Hanover — Uli Hoeness, general manager of Bayern Munich, the West German football league champions, is in the intensive care unit of a hospital here after an air crash in which his three companions were killed. Staff said, however, that his life was no longer in danger. The twin-engined aircraft he was in crashed in fog 10 miles from Hanover airport after flying from Munich. Herr Hoeness, aged 30, a member of the national side which won the 1972 European championship and 1974 World Cup, was coming to watch last night's international game against Portugal.

Top table for England's team

All five English players look set to qualify for the top final section in the West European zonal tournament in Marbella Spain. In Group A Nigel Short confirmed his hold on the lead by beating McNab of Scotland in round nine on Wednesday. (Harry Golombek writes). He now has seven points and is followed by van der Wiel (Holland) 6, Ligterink (Holland) and Nunn (England) 5½.

Results in round nine: Short 1, McNab 0; Nunn ½, Langeweg ½; Sereti ½, van der Wiel ½; Fernandes ½, Ligterink 0; Gallego ½, Doyle ½; Gomez had a bye.

Jonathan Mestel of England likewise retained his lead in Group B and after beating Klauner (Luxembourg) he has a fine score of seven points out of eight.

Results in round nine: Sloan ½, Rivas ½; Mestel 1, Klauner 0; ... Michael Stean won his adjourned game with Sans from round seven thereby making it practically sure that he would qualify.

Clue in shoe to nine killings

Tegucigalpa. — A cigarette packet found on one of the nine bodies recently discovered in a common grave linked the killings with the Honduran secret police, Dr Luis Vidal Ramon, in charge of the post-motem examinations, said.

The packet in a shoe had this message: "To Carmen from Marcus: I am being held in the DIN (secret police headquarters)." The parents of Marcos Rolando Navarro, arrested three months ago, claim this is their son.

Fire cripples atom plant

Stockholm.—A fire at a nuclear power station outside Oskarshamn was extinguished after 30 minutes but the reactor will be out of acion for several weeks, an official said. There was no risk of any radioactive leakage. "The loss of power will cost us £110,000 a day."

The fire started in the turbine hall and, after personnel were evacuated, was put out with carbon dioxide from the sprinkler system.

Girl driver executed

Peking — A woman taxi driver, Yao Jinyun, aged 23, who killed five people and injured 19 others when she deliberately drove her vehicle into a crowd in Peking last month has been executed.

Syria preparing to attack, Sharon claims

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Feb 18

A claim last night by Mr Ariel Sharon the Israeli Defence Minister, that Syria is preparing to launch a war against Israel has increased apprehension among Western diplomats that the Israeli Army will soon stage a military operation in the north.

During a 35-minute interview on television, Mr Sharon combined his warning about Syria with a description of what he claimed was the growing military and political strength of the Palestinian guerrillas in southern Lebanon.

He claimed the high state of Israeli military alert, in operation since December, was justified by the security situation with the Palestinians and the Syrians. He then added: "Syria itself is preparing for war, and I am not talking about rumours, I am talking about concrete facts."

Questioned by Israeli journalists about the possibility of a new war in Lebanon — a subject which receives daily coverage in the press here — Mr Sharon replied: "We will not initiate a war, this is a clear decision of the Government. But it could be that war will be forced upon us."

The Defence Minister is the Cabinet member named most frequently in press and political speculation as pressing hardest for a Israeli military thrust on a larger scale that the 1978 invasion of southern Lebanon. He has recently met leaders of the Lebanese Christians in Beirut to coordinate plans.

Mr Sharon spelt out Israel's position, disputed by American officials, that the July, 1981, ceasefire related not only to attacks across the Lebanese border, but to any other sort of Palestinian guerrilla operation directed against Israel from inside Lebanon.

He used the occasion to publicize government statistics of the numbers of Israelis and Jews in Europe killed or wounded by Palestinians since the truce came into force. He said nine Jews had been murdered and 150 injured.

Many Western diplomats believe it is a question of when, rather than whether Israel will launch its military push to eliminate Palestinian firing positions in range of its northern settlements.

Senior diplomats in Tel Aviv have even organized a private sweepstake to predict the date of the Israeli military operation, so convinced are they that it is imminent.

Intelligence analysts claim that no attack is likely before President Mitterrand's planned visit during the first week in March. There is also uncertainty about the exact type of Palestinian "provocation" which would prompt an Israeli retaliation.

The tension over Lebanon has overshadowed continuing attempts by the United States to inject momentum into the deadlocked talks on Palestinian autonomy. The latest initiative began today when America's new special autonomy negotiator, Mr Richard Fairbanks, began talks in Jerusalem.

Mr Fairbanks is adopting a deliberately low key approach, with no more hints of a possible breakthrough. He describes the purpose of his first Middle East visit in his new role as educational.

Anti-Israeli demonstrations and strikes in the occupied West Bank continued for the third consecutive day in protest against the decision to shut down Bir Zeit University for a further period of two months, only six weeks after it opened following a previous military closure.

The Israeli authorities, in an effort to defuse the widely coordinated protests against the closure, issued orders banning the mayors of most large West Bank towns from leaving their municipal areas.

Palestinians divided

Israelis are spectators in Arab power struggle

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem, Feb 18

An unprecedented wave of Islamic fervour among young Palastinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is splitting local opposition to Israeli military rule and imposing the biggest threat to the dominance of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) since the Israeli occupation 15 years ago.

There have been a number of violent clashes over the past month between PLO supporters and the new breed of Muslim fundamentalists. These have resulted in the self-imposed closure for a month of the largest West Bank university at Nablus, the serious injury of a pro-PLO lecturer forced to jump from a third-floor window after being branded an "enemy of God" and the burning of a library in Gaza closely identified with the PLO.

The Beirut-based Voice of Palestine radio station has already broadcast calls for unity among the 1,200,000 Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories and Israeli commentators have expressed satisfaction that the new phenomenon is proving more divisive than the government-supported leagues of rural Palestinians.

"The sudden upsurge of fundamentalsim is something that is really dangerous for us" explained Mr Ibrahim Karaeem, director of the pro-PLO Palestine Press Service in east Jerusalem. "Under the guise of religion, a wedge is being driven between the Palestinians. The real aim of the revivalists is to chalenge the leadership of the PLO".

The most telling evidence of the Islamic revival was to be found on the 2,000-strong campus of Bir Zeit, the oldest West Bank university which was closed by military order this week for two months after clashes between students and an Isreali official.

There was no Islamic student body before the Iranian revolution, in 1978, but today the so-called Islamic block (dominated by the semi-clandestine Muslim Brotherhood) holds more than 40 per cent of votes on the student council.

The leader of the university's Muslim revival is Mr Samer Nimer, a bearded 21-year-old student of Middle East politics who lives in a squalid refugee camp near Nablus. He told me yesterday: "The reason why West Bankers are turning to Islam is the bankruptcy of all the othe solutions to the Arab problem tried over the past 100 years. And the PLO is one of those."

Mr Nimer, whose fierce rhetoric and rigid views visibly fighten many members of the academic staff, is opposed to mixing male and female students in classes, and to the recent influx of such Western infuences as alcohol. He remains firmly opposed to Israel, but he is striving for a wide Islamic state in the Middle East based on the Koran rather than the narrow, secular state of Palestine sought by supporters of the PLO.

The Islamic reivval has had a marked effect on local Arab society. Many of the young men at Bir Zeit and other universities now wear beards while hundreds of women students have abandoned Western clothing to return to long dresses and the traditional head scarf.

An Arab woman science lecturer at Bir Zeit outlined some of the problems facing the university. "Already I have been told by some of my male pupils that they do not want to be taught by a woman any more. Attempts are being made to interfere with the curriculum. When I tried to teach Darwin's theory of evolution, I was stopped by 10 of the Islamic militants. I thought that they were gong to kill me.

Damascus blast 'a riposte'

By Edward Mortimer

The explosion yesterday at Mr Ahmad Iskandar's Information Ministry, in Damascus, has been described by the Muslim Brotherhood as a blistering riposte to the minister's claims that the Brotherhood had been suppressed.

A representative of the Brotherhood in London, who uses the Name of Ziad Hashim, also said his leaders in Syria had telephoned him to complain about a leading article in *The Times* last Monday which said the declared aim of the Muslim Brotherhood was to establish a fundamentalist Islamic state.

He said the Brotherhood was fighting the regime of President Assad as part of a broad alliance, including Muslim, secular and Christian groups, with a view to reintroducing democracy in Syria.

Mr Hashim, said: "When there was democracy we didn't fight even the communists. We never resorted to arms if we were defeated in elections."

The Brotherhood had as much right to a political role in Syria as the Christian Democrats in any European country. It was determined to remain democratic and avoid at all costs a repetition of events in Iran.

Mr Hashim is encouraged by the latest information from Syria. The town of Ariha, he says, where the road north from Hama crosses the east-west road from Aleppo to Latakia, is practically under Muslim Brotherhood control.

Mr Hashim is bitter about the lack of attention paid by the West to events in Syria compared to Poland.

"The people who are dying are the best we have — doctors, teachers, engineers. We are not Shias like the Iranians: we have no love of martyrdom for its own sake. We want to enjoy life".

In Hama, he claims, the revolt was a delayed reaction to ruthless search operations started by the Government last November. "They come with lists of wanted people, but only the family names, so that often they get the wrong person. And when his house is pointed out to them, they don't knock on the door. They throw a grenade into the house, attack it with machine guns and rockets, and then ask questions afterwards.

They killed about 100 people this way in December and January. We had started arming the people in Hama 18 months ago, but we told them not to move, even if they saw a Muslim Brother being killed, until the order was given".

Deng returns to duty

Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping (right) was seen in public for the first time in more than five weeks when he met Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the deposed Cambodian leader, who presented him with the flowers. (David Bonavia writes from Peking)

Mr Deng said that he had been "taking a rest" and effectively quelled speculation that he had been removed from his positions in the Chinese leadership, though he is now officially described as working in the "second rank". The problems he faces in his plan to prune the Government bureaucracy, and purge unsuitable party cadres, are thought to be still serious.

Peking television showed Mr Deng, evidently healthy but feeling his 77 years, greet Prince Sihanouk and tell him that the present situation in China was "one of unprecedented stability".

Because of this, Mr Deng added, and because of the "continuity of policies in recent years", China could come to grips with bureaucratic overlapping and over-staffing.

Observers believe the plan for heavy cuts in official jobs has aroused alarm and resentment among the country's governing elite, who are worried about the loss of their privileges.

Mr Deng also said that the advanced age of many functionaries had become a pressing matter. "We are determined to take it as a revolution of course, this is a revolution in the administrative stucture, not a revolution against anyone.

"It is going very smoothly. I think the job can be completed much earlier than expected". Plans are already in hand to merge a number of government departments and ministries, he said.

On Cambodia, Mr Deng said that he hoped the three main resistance movements — the Khmer Rouge, the anti-Communist forces led by Mr Son Sann and the much smaller forces loyal to Prince Sihanouk — would "persist in unity and achieve positive results" in the struggle against Vietnamese occupation.

Detainee held in mental ward

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, Feb 18

A leading black trade unionist, Mr Thozamile Gqweta, has been admitted to the psychiatric ward of a Johannesburg hospital after being imprisoned and interrogated for more than two months by security police. His condition has shocked relatives who have visited him.

At least four other people held without trial under South Africa's stringent security laws have been taken to hospital in recent weeks. One detainee, Dr Neil Aggett, a white trade union official, was found hanged in his cell on February 5. An inquest has been promised by the auhorities.

Mr Gqweta is the president of the East London-based South African Allied Workers' Union, one of the fastest growing of the new breed of independent black trade unions which have refused to accept government registra tion and insist on negotiating directly with the companies employing their members.

Arrested early in December, Mr Gqweta was soon transferred to security police headquarters at John Vorster Square in Johannesburg where he was held under the notorious Section Six of the Terrorism Act. This permits the police to hold people for interrogation indefinitely without having to justify it in court.

Mr Goweta, who is 29, was visited by his elder brother, Robert, yesterday. Robert said his brother was much thinner, complained of a severe headache, was deeply depressed, spoke with difficulty and easily lost the thread of conversation.

Mr Goweta was visited by Robert again today, and by his four-year-old daughter, Amandla.

A spokesman for Mr Goweta's lawyer, who is not allowed to visit him, told *The Times*: "He seems to be very depressed, and suffers fromamnesia and insomnia. He also trembles quite a lot and wanders in his speech. There is no doubt that this is due to the conditions in which he is being held by the police".



Mixed welcome: Señor Francisco Fialios Navarro, the Nicaraguan Ambassador in Washington, leaving the White House after presenting his credentials to President Reagan this week. The President told him firmly that Nicaragua was "inviting alien influences and philosophies into the hemisphere. "The Ambassador replied that his country will go its own way and take help from its friends where it finds them.

Argentine protest at kidnap

From Our Correspondent Buenos Aires, Feb 18

Political parties here last night called for a thorough investigation of the kidnapping and murder of a woman, and deplored police action which, they said, disrupted a meeting of the General Confederation of Labour (CGT) that evening.

The woman, Senorita Ana Maria Martinez, a member of the disbanded Socialist Workers Party, was seized while out shopping on February 4, by a man and a woman in a Ford Falcon car. The Interior Ministry said last night that she had been found dead in the Tigre area of Buenos Aires on February 12. Senor Carlos Perette, the former Argentine Vice-President who is a radical leader, said that the multi-party meeting yesterday condemned the kidnapping of Senorita Martinez and demanded the most thorough investigation of the affair.

Senor Perette said that the parties also condemned the surrounding by police of the CGT headquarters in Buenos Aires last night just before labour leaders were to hold a meeting. The CGT said that the disruption of the meeting showed the "true, repressive face" of the Government. The union leaders, who are working out a "mobilization" plan to fight the Government's economic policies, said power and telephones went off at the CGT headquarters just before the meeting was due to start.

El Salvador refugees

Children ailing in lice-infested camp

From Paul Ellman, Santa Tecla, El Salvador, Feb 18

"We were scared of the soldiers. We were scared of everything," explained Amelia Artuga, a 12-year-old orphan with bigger responsibilties than most adults could shoulder. "That's why we came here."

Amelia, her nine-year-old sister and her two brothers, aged four and seven, are among nearly 1,000 people who fled to the smoky, lice-infested camp on the edge of Santa Tecla after the war came to their village nine months ago.

She frowns quizzically when asked who looks after the family, who does the cooking and washing. "I do, of course." The children lost both their parents a year ago and were living alone when the war uprooted them from their home.

Not all of El Salvador's refugees have fled from government forces. Many are bitterly opposed to the guerillas, especially if they have relatives serving in the security forces.

Most of the inhabitants of the camp at Santa Tecla, 10 miles south-east of San Salvador, originally came from the area round Suchitoto, a town 20 miles to the north which has seen some of the bitterest fighting.

As the war intensifies and spreads, the refugee problem is threatening to overwhelm the agencies trying to cope with it.

Estimates of the number of refugees among El Salvador's population of 4.5 million vary. The United States Embassy puts the total at about 200,000 but relief agencies put it at some 500,000. This includes peasants who have fled into Honduras.

It is often only the lucky ones who find refuge in organized caps. Relief workers estimate that about 12,000 people have come into the Santa Tecla area, most of them to live as squatters in shacks on the fringe of the town.

Those for whom space has been found in the camp lead tedious lives, centred mostly on its sole source of water, a pipe which the municipality turns on for one hour a day.

Otherwise, they sit at the entrances to the 12ft squa rooms into which the makeship huts are divided.

The camp is run by the Salvadorean Green Cross founded by young idealists who felt that the Red Cross was reluctant to risk the anger of the authorities.

The Green Cross admits that it treats wounded guerrillas and that it provides relief for refugees in areas controlled by the Government's opponents, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Movement.

As a consequence, the Green Cross has had ambulances and medicines donated from abroad impounded by customs for non-payment of duties.

Harassment of this kind is a feature of life for the refugees at Santa Tecla who are periodically raided by troops from the local garrison but are otherwise virtually neglected by government officials.



Senor José Luis Escobar, a former field worker who fled with his remaining seven children from Suchitoto and has been jobless ever since, said of the government forces: "They were killing our neighbours. Then they killed my eldest daughter."

Senor Rafael Vega Salazar, the Green Cross director for Santa Tecla, says that it is virtually impossible for refugees from the countryside to find employment in urban areas, although some manage to find outlets for handicraft products such as fishing nets and hammocks.

Senor Salazar, who was a travelling salesman before he became a fulltime relief worker, said the situation throughout the country was worsening daily, with many refugees coming out of western areas.

Although the European Community and world church groups provide food and medicine for the refugees, the Green Cross says that it is unable to cope with the growing health problems in the camps, especially skin and bronchial complaints among children, who make up more than half the total number of refugees.

"We are expecting more refugees all the time. This can only make the medical situation worse," senor Salazar said.

Raiders pull out of Thailand

From David Watts, Singapore, Feb 18

A strong force of Vietnamese and Heng Samrin troops withdrew from Thailand last night more than 24 hours after crossing the border from Cambodia in pursuit of the Khmer Rouge.

The force thrust more than half a mile into Thailand as far as Suptaree village in the Pong Nam Rong district of Chantaburi province. A force of Thai marines was dispatched from futher south to relieve a 15-man patrol of the border police which had been surrounded. Five of the patrolmen are unaccounted for but there is no indication of Vietnamese casualties.

The Thais have been expecting further incursions by the Vietnamese and Heng Samrin troops in Cambodia as the Khmer Rouge fighting forces have been pushed back to the Thai border. Unusually large numbers of Khmer Rouge troops have been reported in sight of the Thai border by diplomats visiting the area over the past two days.

This latest incident comes against a background of fresh moves to break the impasse between the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Vietnam over the presence of Hanoi's toops in Cambodia.

The fifth meeting of the foreign ministers of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia ended in Vientiane yesterday with the offer of a partial withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia should proposed talks with Thailand on the stabilization of the Thai-Cambodian border prove fruitful.



The ministera assured Thailand that Vietnamese forces "in no way threaten Thailand's security" and said that they were ready to talk to Bangkok about all matters of common concern.

Stabilization normally means to the Indo-Chinese countries the withdrawal of support for the Khmer Rouge. Support for the Khmer Rouge is being debated in Thailand and the rest of Asean. As usual the ministers have acted with skilful timing.

The Thais have agreed to examine the latest proposal but say it appears to contain nothing new. Along with the rest of Asean, Thailand insists any withdrawal must be total and under the auspices of the United Nations.

Much the same proposal was put to Dr Arun Panupong, the Thai Deputy Foreign Minister, in talks in Rangoon last month when asked whether the partial withdrawal was a prelude to the removal of their troops the Vietnamese did not respond.

Mr Rafieeudin Ahmed, a special envoy of the United Nations, is due in Bangkok tomorrow at the start of a tour of Vietnam, Laos and the Asean nations. His visit to Thailand coincides with a visit by Mr Suppiah Dhanabalan, the Singapore Foreign Minister, making the latest of a series of bilateral contacts.

The Thais have meanwhile agreed to return the Vietnamese aircraft and crew which crash-landed last week. Thailand is now satisfied the aircraft strayed over the border by mistake.

MEN WHO READ THE STARES

From Our Correspondent Jakarta, Feb 18

Despite the recent Soviet spy scandals in both Indonesia and Malaysia, both countries still saw "the hard stare of the Chinese as much more recognizable" than that of the Russians, Datuk Musa Hitam, the Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister, said today.

Speaking at a press conference after meeting President Suharto and Indonesian security officials, Datuk Musa said that both sides had "patted one another on the back" for their exposure of Soviet subversion methods.

He also said that while Sino-Soviet rivalry in South-East Asia was intense because of the proximity of China and its history of supporting both the Idonesian and Malayan Communist parties "as far as we are concerned the Chinese hard stare is much more recognizable.

BLANKET PROTEST IN AMERICA

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Feb 18

One of the five Irishmen accused of entering the United States illegally went into the second day of a hunger strike today in protest at prison conditions.

Officials of the Erie County jail outside Buffalo, New York, confirmed that Edward Howell, aged 35, was refusing food. The four other Irishmen would join in at five-day intervals, according to their lawyers.

All are also refusing to wear clothes other than underwear and blankets, which is reminiscent of the long so-called protest by republicans at the Maze prison, near Belfast.

The five men were indicted at Buffalo on Tuesday on federal charges of conspiracy and smuggling.

The other four are charged in the names of Desmond Ellis, William O'Neill, James Kelly and William Gilroy.

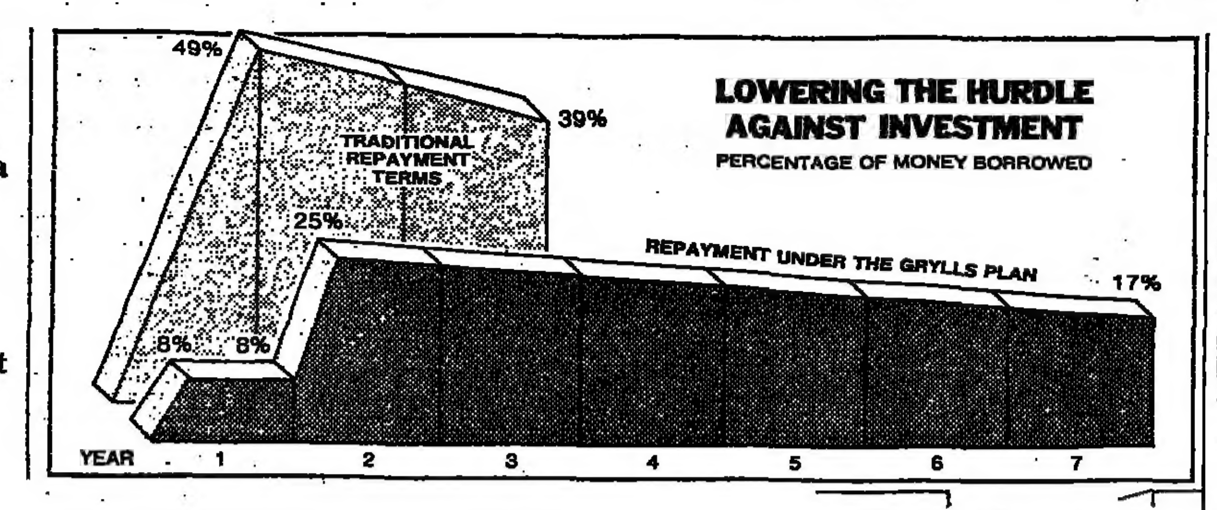
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George Brock reports on the Budget measure that could bring £7,000m investment and 300,000 new jobs

One small move for Geoffrey Howe, a giant opportunity for industry

As Britain's industrial battalions lobby the Chancellor for costly economic expansion in next month's Budget, a group of Conservative businessmen - led by MP Michael Grylls - has put together a cheap tax change that could play a major part in revitalizing our manufacturing investment.













T&N

1 Mr Honks beats the hurdle factor

Imagine yourself to be the managing director of a medium-sized firm called Honks Ltd: at your aging factory, 50 people make car hooters.

You exist on capital of £1m, half of it raised by overdraft, the rest by loans made for fixed periods. It is obvious to you that to stay ahead in the global hooter market, Honks has to modernize.

A year ago, you came close to spending £200,000 on new hooter-making equipment, but gave up when you found how much borrowing the funds would cost. You are surviving the recession, but at a price: a failure to equip for the future; since last year Taiwanese hooters have penetrated the market even further and now the modernization plan is back on your desk.

The figures are still alarming. The bank is ready to lend the £200,000 at 16 per cent over three years. To meet both the interest and pay back the capital will cost Honks about £90,000 a year for those three years. The new machines should make the production line roughly twice as productive, but the world hooter market is too uncertain to guarantee enough cash coming in. Would it not be better to wait until the promised recovery materializes?

Now suppose a different possibility arises? New arrangements between the banks, the Government and industry say that if a loan is made for longer than five years; the payback rate is halved. Companies paying interest on loans are now entitled to claim the cost of that interest as an allowance against corporation tax when they are eventually taxed on any profits. The new plan will give certain firms those allowances straight away, whether or not they are to pay tax at year end.

If they do eventually make a profit, they will be taxed without the allowances. Since most corporation tax is paid at 52 per cent, instant allowances will halve the cost of loan repayment. Longer-term loans to industry will become more like house mortgages for which tax relief arrives immediately.

You do the sums again. A seven-year loan with no capital being repaid until the second year would mean an average annual cost of £42,000. What some businessmen call the "hurdle rate" is now much easier; Honks does not have to jump so high so fast. That spare cash should mean that you can take on some more men and boost the output of hooters, which because of the new machinery, will be better-priced against the Taiwanese.



2 The Grylls team v. the rest

The above story of Honks Ltd is a simplified fantasy. But is an example of what a small but energetic group of Conservative businessmen is trying to insert into Sir Geofrey Howe's Budget speech on March 9. A working party set up by Mr Michael Grylls MP, chairman of the party's backbench industry committee, set out to look for an industrial pick-me-up that would violate as few of the Government's economic rules as possible. They have come up with an ingenious reflation strategy. If it worked, it might be one of the few ways in which this Goverenment could stimulate the economy promptly enough to improve its bleak election chances.

Mr George Edwards, the banking economist and member of the Grylls working party, estimates that £7,000m of new and existing loans might be taken into the scheme in the first year, generating a possible 300,000 jobs. On the ground that each 100,000 new jobs cut between £300m and £600m off the public sector borrowing requirement, Mr Edwards argues that not only will the scheme not lose the Government any tax, but it will help the economy. If the treasury did its sums properly, it would see that, he said.

Edwards has argued for some time that the British financial system is biased against longer-term lending to industry. With interest rates high, short-term loans create a "liquidity trap" which does not endanger firms in West Germany and Japan where loans are made for longer stretches. The working party was also the author of the loan guarantee scheme for small firms which slipped into the Budget last year, proving that it was possible for voices from outside the regular chorus of pre-Budget advice to be heard by the Chancellor. They have been assiduously briefing other individual Cabinet Ministers on their latest brainchild.

In its first version, the study group's report simply suggested that the Government should grin and bear the "loss" of the tax relief paid earlier than usual. The loss would be offset by a stimulated economy. The group began hawking the idea around Government departments in the autumn and took a valuable tip from David Young, then political adviser to Patrick Jenkins, the Industrial Secretary, and now the chairman of the Manpower Services Commission.

Young suggested that the banks be persuaded to carry the first costs and to claim it back only when they paid their own tax. The political leverage was clearly available: banks sensitive about their massive profits might be easier to persuade than a reluctant Treasury and they could charge slightly higher interest rates to compensate. The scheme could then be presented as no threat to Government revenue.

But the banks are still ambivalent. Robin Leigh-Pemberton, chairman of National Westminster, was reported to have told Conservative backbenchers that he favoured the idea. He now claims that he was misquoted and Ian Morrison of the representative Committee of London Clearing Bankd said this week that his remarks had been confined to small and new businesses. It was a personal opinion, said Morrison.

Morrison said that the banks are reserving their position until they see the latest proposal in full, but want to know for certain that they would be able to change extra on the loans to cover the cost of carrying the tax relief, what criteria for lending under the scheme will be and how it will be policed against abuse. "There isn't," said Morrison, "massive anecdotal evidence showing that inustrialists are saying "things would be OK if there were some temporary relief even if the tax bill is higher in the end."

Treasury officals shares some of the doubts about approval mechanisms and policing, but their principal doubt is over whether the Government should encourage the possibility of the monetary expansion that a successful scheme would imply.

The scheme may rate a non-committal mention in Sir Geoffrey's speech. Its chances of anything more substantial seem remote since little detailed work has been done inside the Treasury and what work was been done has left the officials with reservations.

The Grylls working party says that there will be no watertight way to prevent "round-tripping" (surplus money being sent into the money markets and back again with a profit) but that the banks seem confident of being able to control abuses. The Grylls group would like policing to be done as spot checks by approved accountants to avoid the need for large numbers of cival servants. It has not so far suggested any detailed criteria for distinguishing between approved industries and "candyfloss": manufacturing would be approved, property speculations would definitely not and hotels might be on the borderline.

Confronted by the money supply argument, the working party tend the direct line adopted by Sir John King, their chairman, of the engineering firm Babcock and Wilcox, when it presented the idea to the Treasury last November. "Chancellor," said Sir John, addressing a crowded room containing two Ministers. officals from the Treasury, Department of Industry and the Inland Revenue, "industry is bleeding".

3 The view from the boardroom

David Probert is the kind of Chief Executive Mrs Thatcher would *like: too busy pushing his* company upward and outward to moan about the recession. Mr Probert has also been spending £2m on producing new ideas and making nearly half of his workforce of 2,300 redundant to keep the company alive. The Canning group, started nearly 200 years ago, now makes specialized chemicals, plating equipment, valve fluids and refines precious metals. It sells technology to IBM and Mitsubishi "And the banks", says Mr Probert, "have been a hindrance".

Canning's products take three or four years to develop, test and market; not every one works out as intended. Investment has become harder to finance. Mr Probert has his eye on the tiny road maps of gold which lace across printed electrical circuits. He would be well-placed to sell gold potassium cyanide, one of the elements which goes into the alloy which makes the "roads".

The necessary laboratory would cost £300,000 and scientists' salaries for two or three years would eat up another £150,000. Raising the money is no problem; the banks, he says, are always keen to lend. But Mr Probert requires each of his companies to make 25 per cent profit on its operations. A subsidiary which has a new product not making money or just costing money while it is being tested needs to balance that with something which makes a lot more than 25 per cent. Gold potassium cyanide will cost too much to develop; so the project is stalled.

Some time in 1983, or possibly 1984, Canning's new phosphating processes and machinery will start to make a profit for the firm. It will have taken seven years and £500,000 to bring off a competitively priced piece of equipment which seals bicycle frames against corrosion, using less energy than other processes. Mr Probert would not embark on such a long haul today. "Nowadays when you're raising money", he says, "you want to be able to look at it and say: 'It's going to do a quick pay-off'."

The banks have woken up slowly to the idea of making longer money available for projects which will not pay immediately. The loan, Mr Probert says, should match the schedule.

Bill Foden and Douglas Paybody, chief executive and chairman respectively of Fodens, of Cheshire, at the time of its takeover, calculate that a Grylls scheme would have provided an extra £5m over the last seven years of their difficulties. The sum recurs in their post-mortem arithmetic: during Fodens' *final cash-flow crisis* it was the amount they asked the Government to lend while they negotiated a takeover by Renault, and it was the amount the Government eventually paid out in redundancy to Fodens employees.

When the lorry-makers, which once employed 3,000 went into the hands of the receiver 18 months ago, it was snapped up by the Seattle-based PACCAR group. Staff now numbers 700.

Many factors may have contributed to the collapse. The figures are less important than the type of lending it was offered.

Fodens was 125 years old and had a remarkably peaceful industrial relations record. In the late 1960s — good years for the truck business — it failed to copy the modernization schemes of competitors, but caught up in the early 1970s when it built a plant for £4m, producing a popular range of tractors, dump trucks, six and eight-wheeled lorries, military vehicles and engines. No sooner was it built than the truck business went into several years of boom and slump. The new plant had been built on existing reserves of cash, but in 1975 a group of 30 City institutions averted a crisis with a £3m loan eventually converted into shares. Cash flow remained difficult.

When the end came, Fodens had an overdraft facility of £7m and a £5m seven-year loan. The seven-year loan was the odd loan out: the bulk of its finance had been overdrafts converted into share issues. Banks which are criticized for lending "short" often reply that many industrialists prefer overdrafts: they adjust to precise needs and work out cheaper.

But would lower-cost, longer loans have helped Fodens? Barry Baldwin, a partner at Price Waterhouse and a member of the Grylls working party, commented: "No one can say for sure, but one thing Fodens needed was a stable cash flow. A higher proportion of borrowing at a lower cost in the short run could only have helped."

Martin Bell, finance director of Turnball & Newall, watches his company's attempts to modernize textile machinery in a Rochdale plant which employs 3,000 people and which is fighting fierce overseas competition. In T & N terms, the machines, at £500,000 each, are not costly, and they are 10 times more productive than the present ones. But the cash is not available to install them quickly.

In a group as large as T & N, which controlls plastics, construction, chemical and mining firms, any Grylls scheme would affect the *rate* of new investment.

T & N spends about £10m a year on capital projects in Britain and does not find that its supply of money is short, but that interest rates endanger cash flow. If it could use Grylls's advantages on only half that sum it would immediately have an additional margin of £400,000 a year.

Mr Bell said: "The Grylls scheme would obviously have an immediate effect. Cash flow would improve and boards of directors are more likely to go ahead with projects at a more economic rate."

What Mr Bell calls the "hurdle rates" of payments make constructive investment tougher all the time. "Nowadays you're looking for a two or two-and-a-half year payback," he said. "Longer-term money is available but at floating interest rates and that makes it difficult to look further out. You want modernizing, cost-saving, energy-saving schemes which can make 40 per cent. There aren't many of those.

"If such a scheme starts, I hope it would be used not just for brand new 'green field' sites, but for modernization of existing plant. It is essential that we keep our *machinery modern and have* the up-to-date technology used by competitors."

T & N recently spent £20m expanding a PVC plant in County Durham; it had just about broken even in a slumped European market. The corporation tax allowances available after such a project and on the interest paid on its finance are so far unused.

Mr Bell's enthusiasm for the Grylls scheme is fired by the attractions of being able to use allowances which are unusable in present conditions.

Court of Appeal — **Law Report** February 19 1982 — Divisional Court

No rates before property is in full use

British Telecommunications v Kennet District Council

Before Lord Justice Waller, Lord Justice Kerr and Sir George Baker

[Judgment delivered February 18]

When a new telephone exchange was being built and equipped British Telecommunications were not ratable occupiers while the equipment was being installed.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments (Sir George Baker dissenting) allowing with costs an appeal by British Telecommunications, formerly the Post Office, from an order on December 4, 1980, of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court dismissing an appeal from the decision of Devizes justices that British Telecommunications was in beneficial occupation and therefore ratable by Kennet District Council during the period in question, and that a distress warrant should be issued. Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was granted.

Mr Guy Seward for British *Telecommunications*; Mr Christopher Cochrane for the rating authority.

LORD JUSTICE WALLER said that British Telecommunications were the owners of the Burbage telephone exchange and the Ludgershall telephone exchange. They were completed on November 29, 1976, and August 22, 1977, respectively. Thereafter equipment was supplied and installed by contractors.

While the buildings were being equipped British Telecommunications provided a clerk of works and from time to time their engineers attended to test the equipment being installed. British Telecommunications accepted the equipment as being satisfactorily installed at Burbage on July 21, 1977, and at Ludgershall on November 19, 1978; and the exchanges were then ready for service.

A demand for rates for the period during which the equipment was being installed was made in respect of each building. British Telecommunications did not pay and complaint was made by the rating authority before the justices, who held that British Telecommunications were in ratable occupation during those periods.

British Telecommunications' case was that ratable occupation only began when the hereditament could be used for its intended purpose, and that the valuation was made because the possessor was able to occupy and use the property for its intended purpose, which was when the exchange was in working order.

The rating authority argued that since the rate was based on the building and included no element for plant, British Telecommunications became ratable occupiers when the building was completed and before the plant was installed.

The rating authority said that British Telecommunications were occupiers and derived a benefit from their occupation because they were able to have their plant installed so that in due course they could work it.

In Arbuckle Smith & Co Ltd v Greenock ([1960] AC 813) the House of Lords had to consider whether when a company purchased a warehouse for use as a bonded warehouse it was in ratable occupation while necessary alterations were being carried out, and it was held that the making of alterations with the intention of carrying on a business when they were completed did not constitute ratable occupation.

Here the rating authority conceded that if what was done to the buildings had involved work on the structure there would have been no ratable occupation until completion of that work but they contended that since this was plant the principles enunciated in the *Arbuckle case did not apply.*

In that case Lord Reid distinguished between the owner who in some way enjoyed the accommodation he was occupying and the owner who was preparing for future occupation. Although Lord Reid was not considering the installation of plant it would be surprising if a repair or improvement taking three months excluded ratable occupation and the installation of plant taking eight to 15 months did not also do so.

Also, Lord Reid pointed out the fallacy of saying that because some beneficial use was being made, in that case an alteration, therefore there was ratable occupation.

Ratable occupation did not exist unless the owner was occupying the property for the only use which was being contemplated, namely for operating a telephone exchange, and so long as the activities were confined to making the premises fit for that purpose it was not the kind of actual user as was essential to ratable occupation.

His Lordship would allow the appeal and hold that ratable occupation did not commence until the premises were available for the use as a telephone exchange and that British Telecommunications were not in ratable occupation during the period for which the rating authority sought to rate them.

LORD JUSTICE KERR, agreeing, said that on the facts no distinction was drawn between the time when the buildings were completed and the time when the work of installation began. However it was common ground that British Telecommunications could not have been liable to pay rates at any time earlier than when the work began, because it was only as from that time that they could be said to have been in occupation in any sense of the term. Accordingly the question was whether they were liable to pay rates as from that moment and the answer was in the negative.

SIR GEORGE BAKER, dissenting, said that in the ordinary sense of the word each of the buildings was actually occupied as a matter of fact from the starting date of the respective period. There were acts of user by British Telecommunications; apparatus was being installed, men were working, and equipment was being tested. The only question for decision was whether the occupation was of some value to the occupier, and the value or benefit did not have to be necessarily financial.

There was actual benefit to British Telecommunications. It had required buildings in which to instal telephonic equipment and it had such buildings constructed. It had taken possession, had actually occupied them and had begun to instal the equipment by its contractors.

There was some benefit although ultimately other more valuable advantages would flow.

The decided cases did not compel the conclusion that as the buildings were not ready for their ultimate use as operational telephone exchanges they were not ratable and would not be ratable until they were occupied as operational or at least ready for service.

In the *Arbuckle* case the company's use of the premises as a bonded warehouse did not start until the alterations were approved by the Customs and Excise, and only then could it carry on the business of warehousemen.

Here the telephonic business of British Telecommunications was not only the operation and maintenance of the ultimate service when calls were made, but was concerned with everything antecedent thereto which was necessary to produce that service. The purpose of the buildings was to house telephonic equipment and they were ready and being used for that purpose.

His Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

Solicitors: Mr P. G. Ashcroft; Mr S. N. Weighell, Devizes.

Solicitor's duty varies with clients

Carradine Properties Ltd v D. J. Freeman & Co

A solicitor's duty was to exercise all reasonable care and skill in and about his client's business in which he was engaged but the scope of that duty depended upon the extent to which the client appeared to need advice. An inexperienced client required more advice than an experienced one.

The Court of Appeal (The Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Eveleigh and Lord Justice Donaldson) on February 18 held that the defendant solicitors were not liable for breach of duty in not inquiring whether experienced property developers held a property owner's liability insurance policy.

Treatment of juries

Regina v Wallace

Lord Justice Ackner (sitting with Mr Justice Stocker and Mr Justice Hirst) said in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) on February 12 that it was wrong for counsel to treat a jury as a computer expected to absorb highly complex evidence but then to consider them totally incapable of retaining any point of importance and in need of reminder not only in the defence closing speech but also by the judge in his summing up. A judge was entitled, and should normally assume, that a jury had a grasp of a case.

Extending scope of injunction

Horner v Horner

Before Lord Justice Ormrod, Lord Justice Dunn and Sir Sebag Shaw

[Judgment delivered February 18]

Harassment of a party to a marriage by sending threatening postcards and making frequent telephone calls to her place of work was conduct which amounted to molestation within the provisions of the Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1976, the Court of Appeal held, allowing an appeal by a wife from the refusal of Judge *MacManus* in Horsham County Court to grant her a fresh injunction.

Mr Philip Newman for the wife; the husband did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE ORMROD said that the judge had taken the view that because the wife had been *granted an assault injunction* by justices in July 1981 that she was adequately protected and that the proceedings in the county court were a duplication of proceedings and just adding to the costs.

The powers of the county court under the provisions of the 1976 Act were much wider than those granted to justices under the *Domestic Proceedings and Magistrates' Courts Act 1978*. The injunction sought by the wife was probably outside the provisions of the 1978 Act, section 16 of which referred to the use of violence or threat to use violence against the applicant or a child of the family.

"Molesting" the applicant in section 1(1) of the 1976 Act could apply to such a degree of harassment. The wife was suffering considerably from the husband's actions. The injunction would be granted, and the husband restrained from molesting or assaulting the wife.

The court had been urged to attach a power of arrest to the order. That power should be used very sparingly and only if the judge had found that the applicant had suffered bodily harm which was likely to be repeated.

Lord Justice Dunn and Sir Sebag Shaw agreed.

Solicitors: Hextall, Erskine & Co, Horsham.

Licensing fees policy lawful

***Regina v The Greater London* Council, Ex parte The Rank Organisation Ltd**

Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Glidewell

[Judgment delivered February 18]

The policy of seeking to raise a substantial part of the cost of the licensing system out of the fees charged was not an irrelevant consideration in fixing the scale of fees to be charged and was a policy decision neither less legal nor less moral than the previous system under which the cost was borne by the general body of ratepayers.

The Divisional Court so held in refusing an application by the Rank Organisation Ltd, for a declaration that the manner in which the Greater London Council fixed fees payable on the grant, renewal or transfer of annual licences for public music and dancing had been arbitrary, unreasonable, improper, contrary to natural justice and the fees *thereby fixed unlawful*; and had been outside the council's powers.

Mr J. J. Finney for the applicants; Mr Charles George for the GLC.

MR JUSTICE GLIDEWELL, delivering the reserved judgment of the court, said that until 1975 the GLC were entitled to and did charge only a nominal fee for the *grant, renewal or transfer of a* music and dancing licence.

When the statutory limitation on the fee was removed by the Local Government Act 1974, the GLC made considerable increases with effect from April 1975. The fees were increased in each subsequent year except one and were designed to, and did, yield a substantial proportion of the cost to the GLC of administering the system of licensing premises for public music or music and dancing.

The issue before the court was *whether the GLC were entitled to* fix fees which were designed to recoup a substantial proportion of that expenditure and whether the fees fixed were so excessive that they were not within the powers of the GLC.

The application was concerned with three premises where business was carried on by a subsidiary company of the *applicants*. At each of the premises a licence for public music and dancing had been in force for many years and had been renewed annually.

In 1975 the fees were increased, so that for example, at one of the premises, the Royal Lancaster Hotel, Paddington, fees which were £350 in 1975 were increased to £525 in 1976, £630 in 1978 and £756 in 1979. The applicants took no proceedings to challenge those increases.

However, pursuant to a resolution in December 1979 of the relevant committee of the GLC, a *new scale was adopted which* resulted in increases of between 257 per cent and 594 per cent on the previous fees, which was estimated to produce a total revenue of just under £1m. Accordingly, the fee payable for the Royal Lancaster Hotel for 1981 was increased to £5,250. There were similar increases in respect of other premises.

However, the GLC's decision to increase the fees to that level was a matter of policy, a matter well within their discretion and so long as the total fee income did not exceed the cost of the licensing system and made allowance for reduced fees for charities, the court should not and could not seek to interfere.

The *principle that a person or* body charged with exercising a discretion must give to a person affected by the decision the opportunity to be heard before the decision was made, did not extend to a decision which was universal in its application such as the fixing by a local authority of the rates for the year or the scale upon which fees were to be *charged.*

The application was therefore dismissed.

Solicitors: Crossman Block & Keith, Guildford; Mr R. A. Lanham.

Foreign debts convert on winding-up

In re Lines Bros Ltd (in liquidation)

For the purpose of applying the *property* of a company in *creditors' voluntary liquidation* in satisfaction of its liabilities *pari passu* pursuant to section 302 of the Companies Act 1948, foreign currency debts of the company, existing at the date of liquidation, should be converted into sterling at the rate of exchange prevailing at the date of the resolution to wind up, the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Lawton, Lord Justice Brightman and Lord Justice Oliver) held on February 11. It had been argued that since *Miliangos v George Frank (Textiles) Ltd* ([1976] AC 443) all liquidators should either pay dividends in the foreign currency or in the sterling equivalent at the date of payment.

Allowance to be taken into account

Walker v Walker

The single-parent allowance was a financial resource of a party to a marriage under section 25(1) of the *Matrimonial Causes* Act 1973 and had to be taken into account when considering how to exercise the powers under sections 23 and 24, Lord Justice Dunn (sitting with Lord Justice Ormrod and Sir Sebag Shaw) held in the Court of Appeal on February 17.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the judge had disregarded the single-parent allowance which the wife received and had adopted the view expressed by Mr Justice Waterhouse in *M v M* (unreported October 9, 1979). The single-parent allowance was, like any other state benefit, a financial resource and had to be taken into account when considering financial provision.

Renewed protest ruled out

Mayes and Another v Minister of Transport and Another

The Court of Appeal (Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Eveleigh and Lord Justice Donaldson) held on February 4 that an inspector at a *public local inquiry set up to hear* objections to draft schemes and orders relating to side roads and interchanges to be built on a section of the M25 motorway, was entitled to refuse to hear objections directed to a reconsideration of the line of the motorway, which had already been determined in 1974 after public inquiries.

Four voices from the West: in the final article James Callaghan warns of threats to the Nato from both sides of the Atlantic

We must heal the divided alliance



All of us return a ringing "no" to the question "Will the alliance break apart?" We point to previous periods in its life when crisis were surmounted — none more serious than when General de Gaulle withdrew from Nato and expelled all Nato installations and personnel from France. My own party, which has gone prematurely anti-nuclear, recently threw out by an overwhelming majority a conference proposal that Britain should withdraw from Nato. There is no prospect of the alliance breaking up. The real worry is that it becomes so divided that it is incapable of taking concerted action.

Poland, Afghanistan, the Middle East, the Siberian gas pipeline, even the Olympic Games, all found the Alliance at odds. Of course, we paper over the cracks, but our differences are as obvious to the Soviet Union as they are to us. It is true that members of the alliance have always had different perspectives and we must accept that there will never be mechanical uniformity. But while I do not wish to exaggerate the alliance's difficulties, I fear we have recently lost sight of a common political purpose, and, without that, military strategy exists in a vacuum.

There are fundamental contradictions in American fiscal, monetary and taxation policy which are weakening the economies of the West, and, unless quickly changed, will lead to even higher unemployment, to growing protectionism and to exchange controls. Quite apart from these serious errors the alliance no longer has the thrust that as recently as 1974 was set out in the Declaration on Atlantic Relations, approved by all the member states of the North Atantic Council. Let me remind you:

In Europe their objective continues to be the pursuit of understanding and cooperation with every European country".

We had the Eastern bloc in mind.

Or again:

"It is in the interests of all that every country benefit from technical and economic progress in an open and equitable world system".

That covers the gas pipeline from Siberia to Germany.

Once more:

(the alliance's) common aims requires the maintenance of close consultation, cooperation and mutual trust".

Hardly consistent with mutterings across the Atlantic that it is a combination of timidity and greed that characterizes Europe's present attitude towards the Soviet Union.

The reality is that the present American administration no longer subscribes to those parts of the 1974 Declaration, although it continues to be fully convinced that the North Atlantic Treaty is the basis for our common security. They would argue that the 1974 Declaration is now superseded by the growth of the military power of the Soviet Union and that her actions in Afghanistan, Africa and elsewhere prove that it is an expansionist power that must be checked.

Europeans go along with part of this analysis, but they do not accept the conclusions that are drawn. For example, as long as Germany is divided she will have an important national interest in maintaining relations with the Eastern bloc. Again, unrest and stability in the Third World and the anti-Western attitude of some of these countries cannot merely be ascribed to the hand of Russia. There is growing up a basic difference between the way in which America and Europe view the world, and until our broad perceptions come together again, the alliance will be ineffective.

Take Poland. The Russians complain that what happens there is none of our business. But of course it is, especially since the signing of the Helsinki agreements and Chancellor Schmidt, for one, has stated Germany's position. 'Their policy is to assist a gradual evolution of Polish institutions towards a plural society, and Germany will take such steps in matters of trade, finance, food supplies, as will assist that end. Helmut Schmidt speaks for many of us in this. I wish I were equally clear about the policy of the United States.

It seems to me that Zbigniew Brzezinski was saying much the same in his article opening this series. Is this also President Reagan's view? He must know by now that there is an uncertainty about America's policy (and not only in this area), which makes it difficult even for America's friends to understand the present strategy. The rhetoric used by some in the United States could lead the Russians to conclude that their underlying hope is for a sudden and complete change in Poland's political order.

Such a happening is not only improbable, it would destabilize Europe, and we should be very sceptical of those who believe it would bring about a liberal democratic society. One thing is certain: the Russians will never again allow Poland to be used as a pathway for attack. We have no reason to quarrel with that and the West's policy should be shaped accordingly.

We would do the people of eastern Europe a disservice if we re-ingnited the Cold War. For I have no doubt that the negotiations of the Helsinki agreements generated a gradual reforming pressure by bringing human rights in Eastern Europe within the arena of international debate.

There is no way to end the East-West conflict, but we must aim to keep it under control, recognizing that the ideological battle will not cease. War in Europe would be utterly disastrous. Any conflict on the European mainland would inevitably lead to uncontrollable escalation. Tidy theories of controlled escalation would disappear at once in the blind chao of battlefields contaminated by nuclear and chemical fall-out, when the existence of a continent is at stake.

War must be prevented. Disarmament and arms control must be part of the alliance security policy, not an alternative to it. A military balance is a precondition for security in Europe and for the relaxation of tension. We have had disarmament talks but no disarmament. They will continue to fail unless America accepts that military superiority is a chimera. What is needed is a comprehensive balance at the lowest possible level of armaments and the reversal of present policies in both East and West to stock up armaments, both in quantity and quality.

President Reagan's campaign policy, prior to his election, of increasing defence spending, undoubtedly had the support of many Americans. But the time has come for the adminstration to give a decisive lead to their own people in explaining that the truths of world politics are much more complex than an attempt to secure an unattainable military superiority. Peace can be kept through military balance and dialogue, but not through military superiority.

It is also essential that the American people understand that whatever the truth about the expansionist aims of the Soviet Union, that country does not lie at the root of every one of the world's ills. Poverty, injustice and oppression in the Third World, are themselves threats to the security and interests of the world as a whole. The United States has an historical role to play by giving a lead in this understanding.

The Europeans have a better understanding of the complexities of the present world difficulties than the United States. I am sorry about our differences, but they in no way weaken our fidelity to the alliance. In present cirucumstances we must agree to differ with the United States but we must continue to discuss our differences with them and persuade them of the need to take a different view. For without the positive agreement of the United States, the alliance cannot give a clear lead in the world.

I am optimistic that the well-known capacity of the American people to learn from practical experience and adapt to reality will enable the alliance to recover its vision and its dynamism.

James Callaghan was Labour Prime Minister from 1976 to 1979.

David Watt

The urgent case for a money-saving missile

Within the next week the Cabinet is expected to make its decision on whether to prolong Britain's possession of nuclear weapons into the twenty first century. It will be the climax of a long and abstruse debate. Should we purchase (and build submarines to carry) the very powerful new American Trident missiles as successors to the aging Polaris weapons and, if so, in a more or less advanced version?

Should we reject these very costly submarine-launched rockets in favour of cheaper, sea-launched Cruise missiles? Or should we simply fade out of the nuclear weapons business in the mid-1990s, when our present submarines become obsolete?

These options have been pretty widely canvassed in the press, in academic literature, and in Parliament, but it has been an oddly disjointed discussion. The argument has raged firstly within the defence Establishment, with the civilian bureaucrats and submariners on the whole lined up in favour of buying the best deterrent that's going, against the deep misgivings of the chiefs of the conventional services, who fear the effect of the huge expenditure on their own budgets.

The public, on the other hand, has let the technicalities slip by and is basically split between those who believe that we should abandon nuclear weapons upon moral grounds and those who feel generally safer and stronger for having some kind of deterrent.

The Cabinet, being laymen, but also for the most part "convinced deterrent" men, have some difficulty in making sense of all this. The final option — that of getting out of nuclear weapons altogether — will, of course, get short shrift. The Prime Minister, like her predecessor, is adamantly opposed to it. Mr John Nott, the Defence Secretary, would probably resign before adopting it, and the Conservative Party in the country would find it very hard to stomach.

The sea-launched Cruise option has also virtually been eliminated by reason of its prospective vulnerability to new Russian ground-to-air defensive systems. The choice, as presented by the Ministry of Defence, will therefore be between the two versions of Trident — the C4, which we originally intended to buy but which the Americans will cease to manufacture in the mid-'80s; and the more powerful and expensive D5 which is now to be the main American submarine-launched strategic weapon until well into the twentyfirst century.

The MOD preference is for the D5, which it will back with two main arguments. One boils down to the proposition that unless we buy the C4s second-hand as the Americans discard them (not considered very attractive from the point of view either of efficiency or national pride) they are not likely to turn out much less expensive than their successors in the long run. And though they admittedly give us more range and power than we strictly need, they are better value for money.

The second argument, which spikes the Treasury's guns, is that the immediate down-payments on the D5 are smaller than on the C4, and the big outlay will not come until after the election. On this basis it looks more and more like a walkover for Mr Nott.

This result will naturally appal the nuclear disarmers, but there remain two strong reasons for finding it objectionable, even if we start from the Cabinet's own overall assumption that it is essential for Britain to maintain its own deterrent. The first is the political point that the more expensive the option chosen (and incidentally the more delayed the down-payment) the more likely the decision it to be overturned by an incoming government of a different complexion in 1984. The Labour Party is committed to jettisoning the deterrent anyway, but a more modest commitment might have a better chance of surviving a coalition with a Liberal/SDP alliance.

> Labour is commited to jettisoning the deterrent, but a more modest commitment might have a better chance of surviving a coalition with a Liberal/SDP alliance.

A more substantial (and, I believe) extremely powerful argument against the Trident D5 starts from the question: "What kind of deterrent does Britain actually need?" We do not ask this question often enough, and unless the Cabinet is prepared to ask it again the MOD case will be carried by default. The MOD has always assumed (and its present case is based on the assumption) is that what is wanted from our own strategic nuclear weapons is the assured second-strike ability to destroy the Soviet Government and command system (that is, to penetrate the defences surrounding Moscow and one or two of the largest Soviet cities).

The V-bombers, the Polaris, and most recently the improved Polaris (Chevaline) systems in our possession have each in their turn been capable of fulfilling this function. Unless the Russians start investing huge new sums in anti-ballistic missile defences, Trident would prolong it to perhpas 2020.

But do we need to penetrate the Moscow defences? Would it not be a sufficient deterrent to the Russians' destroying British cities (which is really the only serious function of the British long-range nuclear weapons anyhow) that they should know that 15 other large Russian cities would be devasted by the British bee's-sting reponse? If it would, then the missile-purchasing picture looks very different, for another option is immediately revived.

The new British Chevaline warheads are good for the more limited purpose outlined above until well into the next century, and though we should have to renew their rocket motors in the late 1990s and would have to plan immediately for the building of new submarines to carry them when our present Polaris submarines are obsolete in about 1993, there is no intrinsic reason why they could not be made to last at a far lower cost than Trident.

The MOD reply to this proposition is twofold. First they say that the deterrent value of a "lesser cities" strategy is insufficient. Secondly they argue that it would be grossly inefficient, given that we have to build new submarines anyhow, not to give them the capacity to carry larger missiles than Polaris/Chevaline later on, and that if one does this the cost is a little less than the purchase of Trident, so why not buy Trident anyhow?

Neither of these counter-arguments is conclusive. The first is, of course, a matter of speculation, but in the kind of scenario which would bring the British deterrent into play as a significant factor (i.e. one in which (a) the Soviet Union was threatening the nuclear destruction of Western Europe and (b) the willingness of the United States to risk its own cities in support of Europe was in doubt) it does not look as if the destruction of London and Birmingham would be a very attractive exchange for the incineration of an equal number of Russians, even though they live outside Moscow.

If the Russians were confident that the United States would stay passive (in itself an unlikely supposition) they would be better to threaten the annihilation of Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Rome, or other cities in countries not possessed of nuclear weapons.

As to the second argument, it is really the expression of the determination of all defence ministries to have the equipment that represents the latest state of the art. What we need from our new submarines in order to cope with the latest advances in anti-submarine warfare is that they should be quieter, that they should have better sonar, that they should not have to return to port so often.

This is in itself, obviously, an expensive programme; but it need not be as expensive by quite such a large margin as what is now envisaged, and the "why-not-while-we're-about-it?" arguments need far more critical examination than they normally receive.

If one could be sure, of course, that the money saved on Trident would be spent on lowering the nuclear threshold in Europe by expenditure on the improvement of our conventional forces there, the argument would be stronger still. In fact, of course, if we save on Trident the money is likely to find its way into domestic purposes or possibly into the purchase of other defence equipment far less important. The machinations of the Treasury and the inter-service rivalries which still abound in the Ministry of Defence will see to that. But that is hardly a consideration that the Cabinet can admit to. They had better, like the French, decide what is required for a limited role and buy as thriftily as they can.

Max Harris, aged 9 is moving into gold

by Peter Watson

It has been a good winter for Gregory Richards of Chicago. Despite the general economic climate, his Lockheed shares have performed so well that he has just begun investing in silver. Nothing so unsual in that, you may think. But Greg Richards is aged 11, and the hundreds of dollars he has made onthe Stock Exchange stem from the fact that he has stopped buying sweets and model tanks with his pocket money and now uses his cash in more adult ways.

What is nore, as his mother Susan is the first to admit, Greg is not a particularly brilliant 11-year-old either. Plenty of other American children are now doing the same thing. A poll just completed by Rand Youth Surveys of New York finds that no fewer than 12 per cent of American children between the ages of eight and 19 now owns stocks and shares.

The trend is growing so fast that two schools in Manhattan have begun to offer courses for 12 and 13-year-olds which introduce them to the stock market.

In one school, where the head requested to remain anonymous to avoid the attentions of would-be kidnappers, each of the 12 and 13 year olds was given a notional $500,000 last September. As of this week the best child in the class has improved his "portfolio" to $650,000 and the worst has dropped to under $400,000. Whoever has the most money at the end of the academic year in June wins a free trip to the stock market and lunch with top brokers.

In the second school, in Chinatown, the pupils actually use their own pocket money but this is pooled. Their most hair-raising incident to date was when they came in one morning, checked the *Wall Street Journal* and found that their shares in Kellogg had very nearly halved overnight. Not until the teacher arrived was it pointed out that stock had been split and they had actually made money.

Max Harris, from New York, who is pushing nine, has moved into gold.Not much, it is true, but enough for him to follow the price fluctuations each day with more than passing interest. Michael Schechter, 17, of Colorado, is in real estate and Tammy Samph, 14, in Washington, has been trying her hand, so far unsuccessfully, on the Commodities market (coffee, unfortuantely).

Stories like these were just anecdotes until Lester Rand published his survey showing that one in eight chioldren is now sophisticated enough to play the stock market, a percentage which has more than doubled in the last five years.

Several reasons are given for this change in use of pocket money. Onis inflation. Children now aged eight to 12, say the psychologists, are the first generation to have grown up entirely at a time when inflation has been in or very near double figures and their pocket money has been hit the same as everything else. A more convincing explanation perhaps, is the one that blames divorce.

Studies show that in America divorced parents tend to lavish money on their children out of guilt for the separation. Large numbers of children, therefore, now have fewer parents around the home but far more money.

Then there is *Pennypower*, a magazine started a year ago by the United States consumer union. Aimed at the eight to 12-year-ole, this began with articles telling children how to shop around for better quality, more educational toys, and the more nutritious orange juices. But, following the enormous response to an issue it ran on banking facilities for children, it has now started offering modest advice on investment rates, which banks encourage the smaller saver and so on.

Through this, several children who in one way or another hsave amassed *1,000 have found that thay can then open a money market fund account, paying 15 per cent, and in some cases have then gone on to play with foreign currencies.



Not all the children are cocky whizz kids. But Thomas H. aged 10, from Los Angeles, is. When asked what he was going to do with all the money he has made, he replied: "Save it till I'm a millionaire - then buy a TV set." It almost makes you wish he turns out to be right.

How McCarthyism nearly derailed Mrs Thatcher

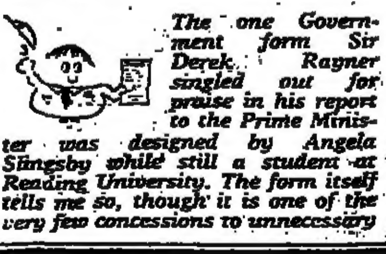
Lord McCarthy, who as chairman of the Railway Staffs National Tribunal must shortly decide whether train drivers will get their 3 per cent without flexible rostering, has already played a major part in increasing public sector pay without compensating gains in productivity. It goes far beyond the railways and farther than even the angriest Conservative MPs are likely to suspect.

In the 1978-1979 winter of discontent McCarthy was co-author with Professor Hugh Clegg of a joint paper requested by James Callaghan, advising how the work of pay review bodies in the public sector might be reformed. It was this report which led to the creation of the standing commission on pay comparability, with Clegg as chairman, in March 1979.

Honouring some of the seemingly generous Clegg awards nearly ruined Mrs Thatcher's economic strategy in the early months of her Government, before the commission's abolition was announced in August 1980.

In mitigation of McCarthy's role it should be said that the paper he and Clegg submitted proposed a standing commission which would subsume all the other pay review bodies, which the Clegg Commission never did and which would be in the background to suppply objective facts, not involved on settling individual disputes. Clegg's commission spent its short life racing from one dispute to another like an overworked (and probably underpaid) policeman.

THE TIMES DIARY



The one Government form Sir Derek Rayner singled out for praise in his report to the Prime Minister was designed by Angela Slingsby while still a student at Reading University. The form itself tells me so, though it is one of the very few concessions to unnecessary information that IR 33 — Income tax and school leavers — makes.

She has now graduated to be book designer with J. M. Dent, the publishers. You can find a weightier example of her work than the one Rayner described as "particularly good" in John Dixon Hunt's book about Ruskin, The Wider Sea, *published last week.*

Star guest

Patrick Moore, the star-gazer with the knitting-needle eyebrows, was among Britain's supreme sovietologists launching the *Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Russia and the Soviet Union* in London. Moore, author of *Can you speak Venusian?*, contributed the section on Russian lunar research.

The encyclopaedia, first of its kind for 20 years, has contributions from more than 100 scholars on every facet of Soviet life. The piece on pop music is written by our own Michael Binyon.

Steiner on stage

Even a clutch of rave reviews for Christopher Hampton's adaptation of his novel *The Portage to San Cristobal of A. H.* (the *Financial Times* was one, sorry exception) has not thrilled Professor George Steiner as much as the play itself.

"For a writer and scholar to watch his most personal allegories and metaphors spring into physical shape and blaze into tremendous life is just immensely moving and stimulating", he told PHS yesterday. "It has been a marvellous privilege."

In a few days he will be back in Geneva teaching Shakespeare, where he holds the chair of English and comparative literature. He will go to it refreshed and *invigorated* by a three-hour seminar he had with John Dexter's cast, who were able to ask him about every detail and point of interpretation in his book.

Talking head

The BBC World Service has a new head of talks and current affairs. Michael Sumner succeeds to a position formerly held by Douglas Muggeridge, now managing director of external broadcasting, and Gerald Mansell, who retired as deputy director general.

Sumner's department is responsible for a quarter of the World Service output, and has enormous audiences for some of its programmes. An estimated 12 million listen to *Outlook*, but, Sumner admits, it is rather an embarrassment how many people at home listen to *24 Hours* and *The World Today*. "They are not intended for domestic consumption, but for listeners abroad whose first language is not necessarily English," he says.

Brother McDuck

Alas! PHS has unwittingly brought the Labour Party into conflict with that other great comedy house, Walt Disney Productions. My note on Wednesday about MPs' disquiet that Labour was using Donald Duck as Tory spokesman in a political education programme brought instant action from Keith Bales, vice-president and copyright director for Disney.

"Ours is not Donald Duck", Labour spokesmen protested. "He does not wear a blue sailor suit. He is called Scrooge McDuck and he speaks in a Scottish accent. Donald's accent is American."

This hasty defence is not likely to suffice. Bales adds in a postscript: "It must be understood that any use of characters must not look like, or be interpreted as our copyright because we would bring immediate passing off action."

Public saving

Here is a limited amount of good news for Third World journalists in London to send home, by telex if they wish. British Telecom has reprieved its public telex service.

Alarmed by large overheads, Telecom had cut the opening hours at the only public telex office in Britain, in Electra House near the Temple tube station. It had also suggested that the Foreign Press Association might like to take over the service. Outcry among overseas journalists in London was immediate and pained.

Now Telecom says more economic premises have been found, nearer the Houses of Parliament, and the telex office will be open seven days a week (though not, as formerly, all night as well).

Access, the credit card company, is running a competition to find Britain's best shop assistant. As an eliminator 1,600 entrants were asked to put the required characteristics of an ideal shop assistant in the same order of importance voted by customers. Of the 1,600 only three got the order right.

Divine inspiration

Chris Wright, managing director of a computer software firm, stumbled on a high-technology idea while dousing for water. He met some Wiltshire dairy farmers who wanted to computerize their administration, and the system he devised to cut down doorstep milk bills is now attracting inquiries from as far away as Pakistan.

Son of Diary Quiz

By popular demand, here are a few cryptic questions about the week's events for addicts who have been missing the Diary Quiz. Answers will be in Monday's column.

1 Who acted with calculated incivility?

2 What pedestrian fact links Luton, Plymouth and Woolwich?

3 On what subject are Conservative MEPs plumbing the depths?

4 Whose performance was judged off form?

PHS

THE TIMES

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SIR PETER HIT THE BUFFERS

The railways board has chosen to tread the path of humiliation mapped out for it by Lord McCarthy, not that he left it with much choice when he decided to make it the victim of last August's ACAS-sponsored fudge. The latest three-cornered bout with ACAS has not produced any clear commitment by Aslef to *the principle of* flexible rostering as that is understood by the board. The most it produced was an assurance that the union does not rule out in advance negotiation under that heading. Not much of a fig leaf there, in spite of Sir Peter Parker's brave attempt to magnify the cover provided. And of course Aslef has agreed to the strict timetable Lord McCarthy laid down for negotiation and arbitration if necessary, arbitration by which Aslef is most unlikely to make itself bound. Not much of a fig leaf there either.

There is however another garment in which the board can clothe its nakedness as it enters the negotiating chamber. When last summer it was presented by the Railway Staff National Tribunal with a wages award appreciably higher than any it had the money for, the board declared that if the topping of 3 per cent was to be paid it would have to be made self-financing. The method of financing it which the board quite rightly went for was that of making working practices on the railways less cripplingly inefficient. It brought the NUR and the salaried staffs along with it and agreed useful measures of labour productivity with them, including flexible rostering where it applied.

But though the best, more efficient working practice is not the only method by which money can be found to pay the extra wages. It can be found by employing fewer train drivers. If the final stage of these drawn-out proceedings, to be concluded by mid-March, does not produce a negotiated agreement on the rostering of footplatemen, or if Lord McCarthy (for it will be he) hands down an arbitration award that fails to yield sufficient productivity to cover the cost of the extra wages the board is now to be obliged to pay, or if Aslef refuses to accept the award that is handed down, the railways board should immediately set about shedding labour to the precise extent that is needed to match the cost of the three per cent.

So that no one shall be left in any doubt about its intention, the board should make known before the final round of negotiations begins that that is what it means to do and spell out the implication in the number of jobs to be shed. The Government too should approve that intention and indicate that the board's borrowing limits will be regulated accordingly. The job losses should be made to fall on that branch of the railway service that has withheld its cooperation, and they should be chosen so as to minimize curtailment of services to the public so far as possible.

The purpose of the threat is not to punish Aslef or seek partial revenge upon it but to drive home the lesson that there is no commercial future for the railways, no security for its employees and no grand investment strategy unless management and men, individually and through their unions, heartily accept the objective of productive efficiency. As chairman of the board Sir Peter Parker has preached and practised that. He has rightly staked a lot on the issue of flexible working by footplatemen, for that is the key factor obstructing the efficient use of their time. If he fails to carry the point he will resign, he says. The conjunction would be greatly regretted. But the priority Sir Peter has insisted upon will survive him. One may be confident that any successor appointed by this government will share that priority. It will not go away.

TEST FOR SPANISH DEMOCRACY

The military trial which opens outside Madrid today will be followed with close attention both inside and outside Spain. Before the court will be those officers, including three generals, who have been charged with responsibility for the attempted coup of a year ago. The attempt dealt a shattering blow to the self-confidence of Spain's fledgling democracy, and one from which it has still not recovered. So the way in which the case is handled, and the verdicts which are reached, will be vital for the future of that democracy. They will show whether the system which has developed since the death of General Franco is strong enough to handle the outright assault which it underwent last February; and whether it has a chance of preventing further attempts of the same sort in future.

To most outside observers in western Europe, it is self-evident that last February's attempt was an outrage against the government and the people of Spain. A small group of military men, dissatisfied with the way things were going, decided to take the law into their own hands and impose their own views on the rest of the country by force. A detachment from the Civil Guard seized the Parliament building and held the members at gunpoint, while attempts were made to rally support from military commanders elsewhere round the country. The attempt failed because of hesitations among these commanders and because King Juan Carlos threw the whole weight of his own prestige into combating the coup.

But that is not the way that it appeared to many members of the armed forces and to rightists in Spain's civilian population. To them, the attempted coup was the work of patriots taking justified action against the ills they saw in contemporary Spain — the terrorism in the Basque country, the poor state of the economy, the increase in crime and even such steps as the move to legalize divorce. This sort of attitude is not shared by the majority of the Spanish population. But it is widespread in the armed forces and has become uncomfortably clear over the past year. For them and for other rightists Colonel Tejero, who led the takeover of Parliament, and General Milans del Bosch, who ordered tanks into the streets of Valencia, have become heroes fit for adulation.

The task of the military court should be, therefore, to demonstrate firmly and clearly that that is not so, and that military rebellion is wholly unacceptable. How far it will do this is, however, one of the main questionmarks over the proceedings. Attempts will undoubtedly be made by counsel for the defendants to appeal to military esprit de corps by presenting the case as one brought against the army as a whole. It is possible that the members of the court may feel a certain sympathy for their fellow officers in the dock. So there is a danger of the court appearing to minimize the seriousness of the charges, or even allowing the proceedings to turn into a denunciation of democracy. Most damaging of all would be a decision to impose no more than derisory sentences on any officers found guilty.

The government of Señor Calvo Sotelo was aware of these risks when it decided, in the aftermath of the attempted coup, to hand the case over to the military system of justice. It could have had the defendants tried in a civil court, and that might have seemed to be the proper place, since they are charged with conspiring to overthrow the government. But it was afraid then, and it is still afraid, of an angry reaction from the army if it felt it was being demeaned.

There are clear advantages in having the case heard before a military court, provided it is properly handled. A severe sentence passed by fellow officers would have a good chance of being accepted by the greater part of the army, while a similar sentence passed by a civil court might seem to them to be vindictive. And it would do much to disabuse the officer caste of the notion, deeply rooted in Spanish history, that it is above the law. The lesson would be timely as Spain prepares to join the other western European democracies in Nato and the European Community.

HIGHER SPEED AND HIGHER PRICE

At the very time that petrol prices are falling by 5 per cent and more, the state electricity and gas industries are now announcing increases of around 10 and 25 per cent respectively in their tariffs. Not for the first time the British consumer is being faced with the glaring disparity between the free market where prices have responded to recession and the state sector where prices continue to rise in response to costs rather than demand. Not for the first time, the consumer's response has been to blame the inefficiencies and monopoly power of the nationlized industries.

Understandable this reaction may be. Fair it is not. The rate of increase in gas prices in particular, but also of electricity prices, is very much the reflection of political decision rather than internal efficiency (although inefficiency there undoubtably is). Three years ago the Government decided that gas prices which had tended to be low compared to other fuels because of North Sea gas prices agreed in pre-energy crisis days, should rise by around 10 per cent above inflation for three years so that they could close the gap with competitive fuels such as electricity. The coming financial year will be the third year of such policy, conveniently completing the cycle in good time to see a slowing down in gas prices in the run-up to an election. The electricity industry decision on prices is a little different. In its case, the rate of increase has been imposed by the target of return set by the government two years ago — a target which the industry now feels is too tight for a recession but which the government, or rather the Treasury, has insisted must be adhered to. The result in both cases, is a series of price rises for which the nationalized industries disclaim responsibility, from which the government conveniently keeps its distance and which the consumer none-the-less has to suffer.

There is reason in this madness. In seeking deliberately to accelerate the pace of gas price rises beyond the wishes of the gas industry itself, the government has been trying to bring some balance to the competitive market for fuels. By an accident of history, the gas industry arranged a series of long-term contracts at prices agreed before the explosion of oil costs in 1972/73. The benefit of this has been enjoyed partly by the industry, which has recorded record profits in recent years, and partly by the gas consumer, particularly the domestic gas consumer, who has enjoyed gas prices which in real terms are still less than they were a decade ago and as much as 30-50 per cent below competitive oil or electricity prices. The reverse side of the coin has been the loss of potential tax revenue to the state from the even greater profits which would have resulted from raising gas prices in line with oil.

The madness in this reason is that the competitive energy balance would have been restored over time even without government intervention, since the gas industry is having to pay far higher prices for new gas supplies. As these supplies take over from declining traditional low-cost supplies, so the price of gas would have had to rise at a sharp rate without any intervention.

In one sense, it is an argument primarily about fine tuning. The gas industry would prefer to adopt a slower pace of price increases *to preserve more of the* benefit to its own customers just as the electricity industry would prefer a slacker financial target to allow it to cope better with the effects of recession on demand. The government prefers a slightly faster pace of adjustment to avoid distortions in the market, to raise its revenue from gas and to protect coal. The difference to the consumer is one of timing rather than degree. But it is also an important question of principle. For a government to intervene in nationalized industry pricing for reasons other than to prevent a misuse of monopoly power is always dangerous. This year's intervention for broader policy reasons is next year's intervention for short-term political reasons, with all that this entails for mounting state losses, poor management morale and low efficiency. In imposing this set of increases, the government is undermining the very policies it should be trying to promote — a greater efficiency and better management by the public sector.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Uncertain victory in rail settlement

From Mr R. J. W. Crabbe

Sir, I have been astonished at the easy acceptance by press and television of Ray Buckton's obviously propaganda cry of "total victory". No account seems to have been taken of the implications of the very precise proposals for a settlement put forward by the McCarthy committee. These, if fully implemented by Aslef, spell "total defeat" for them on the only issue that really matters.

The central point of contention throughout has been British Rail's demand that Aslef should confirm its acceptance of the August requirement for flexible rostering before the 3 per cent is paid. This is the exact procedure laid down in the McCarthy scheme for a settlement.

Specifically, these proposals, as quoted in your issue of today, (February 17), propose, *as the first step*, that Aslef should confirm its commitment to flexible rostering under the clause of the August agreement which reads:

Variable rostering hours within limits to be negotiated. Negotiations shall take place to establish variations to the rostering agreements with a view to introducing some flexibility around the eight-hour day, but without producing unreasonable variation in the length of each working day or week. These discussions shall be concluded by October 31, 1981.

The next step is for Aslef and British Rail to agree a tight timetable for implementing this commitment. Only *when these steps are complete* is it proposed that British Rail should pay the 3 *per cent — and Aslef call off its* strike.

Whatever legalistic ambiguities there may have been in the agreements of last summer, this proposed programme makes it quite clear that the committee believes that Aslef has made a commitment to flexible rostering — a commitment which Ray Buckton has once again averred that they have no intention of honouring.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. W. CRABBE,
Fairways,
166 Lower Green Road,
Esher,
Surrey.
February 17.

From Mr A. T. Cropper

Sir, I think that Mr Buckton, in claiming victory, has missed the whole reason why many other people are disgusted with his actions. We realize that he is canny enough never to have committed to paper a clear agreement to flexible rostering. That the report findings confirm his canniness is of no great interest to us. It is fairly clear that all the other parties accepted the flesh of flexible rostering on the bones of the written agreement.

The point that annoys the rest of us is that while the rest of us, if employed, are now on average working significantly harder these days, he and his men are refusing to step up their work-rates and are clinging to a fairly relaxed life-style of years gone by. Further, we are being asked to subsidize them!

Yours faithfully,
A. T. CROPPER,
Alston Court,
Nayland,
Colchester.
February 16.

From Mr J. R. Walker

Sir, Have I got it right?

1. In July Lord McCarthy's national tribunal arbitrated upon a dispute and made an award.
2. In August Pat Lowry conciliated upon that award and produced a formula.
3. In February Lord McCarthy arbitrated upon that formula, and
4. Pat Lowry is meeting the parties to define what that arbitration meant. But,
5. He will suggest that the question of variable rostering be dealt with within the industry's machinery, the ultimate stage of which is arbitration by Lord McCarthy.

Do you not think someone else ought to be given a chance?

Yours faithfully,
J. R. WALKER, Director,
Joint Industry Board for the Electrical Contracting Industry,
Kingswood House,
47/51 Sidcup Hill,
Sidcup,
Kent.
February 17.

From Mr Sebastian Garman

Sir, Look to your manners (editorial, February 17). The dry screech of frustrated prejudice is not for you.

What are the facts? "This broken-backed inquiry" has found that the Railway Board's agreement to pay the 3 per cent was unconditional. Do you dispute this, Sir? No you do not. Instead you attempt to besmear the reputation of its chairman. "McCarthyism" indeed. Who is the McCarthyite?

Yours truly,
SEBASTIAN GARMAN,
79 Ealing Road,
Brentford,
Middlesex.
February 17.

How shall a child know its parent?

From Dr Alexina McWhinnie

Sir, Recent correspondence, and particularly your leader of February 10, "A matter of origins", has highlighted the parallel between AID and adoption on the question of the child's need to know about its origins. There is indeed a close parallel and, as in the early years of adoption practice, AID practice has really had the point of view of the childless couple or parents in mind rather than that of the child.

In fact much current discussion about the importance of secrecy and confidentiality in AID is reminiscent of what was reported to the various departmental committees on adoption in 1921 and 1925 and the Departmental Committee on Adoption Societies and Agencies in 1937. Since then research into adoption outcome has opened up the whole area of communication within adoptive families, or one could say between children and the adults who "parent" them but who are not their *birth* parents.

This research showed that adopted people, while indeed wanting factual details about their birth parents, viewed those who brought them up as their real parents, were thoughtfully loyal towards them, not wishing to distress them, yet were themselves distressed when the adult world in which they had been reared had not always been fully honest with them.

It emerged from the research that children in adoptive homes where their origins were made a secret frequently knew or suspected that they were adopted, not because of any direct verbal communication, but through all the non-verbal cues which happen in any family — the stray remark or innuendo of a relative, the embarrassment of a parent at a simple question from the child.

The problem about advocating secrecy in AID is that the parents are then caught in a web of a lifetime of deceit, not only with their child but with the network of relatives who will assume a relationship with the child based on kinship. There may well be couples who can live happily with this deceit, but there will be many who will find themselves caught unawares by the everyday comments of relatives and friends about, for example, whether or not the child "takes after" which parent.

What little work has been done with AID families suggests that the shared secret either cements a marriage further, or breaks it, with the husband being potentially more vulnerable to feelings of "failure" and "exclusion". Openness with the child could be considered not only fair but a right and, if adoption research and practice is anything to go by, the question of sharing such information is much more threatening to the adults involved than to the child.

There is clearly a case for a much more open debate about this whole question and great merit in your assertion that AID children have as much right to knowledge about their origins as have adopted children.

Yours sincerely,
ALEXINA M. McWHINNIE,
Orchard Hill,
3 Windmill Lane,
Wheatley, Oxford.

From Mr K. Campbell

Sir, Amidst the debate on extracorporeal fertilization and artificial insemination by donor much has been made of the need of a child to know it's "genetic origin". It may be salutary to be reminded of the discussion following a study on antibody formation. The participants were Dr. E. Philipp (then consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at the Royal Northern Hospital, London); Lord Kilbrandon (then lord of appeal in ordinary); and Sir John Stallworthy (then Nuffield Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Oxford University).

Dr Philipp: "We blood-tested some patients in a town in south-east England and found that 30 per cent of the husbands could not have been the fathers of their children."

Sir John Stallworthy: "What was the extent of that group?"

Dr Philipp: "Not large — between 200 and 300 — but large enough to give us a large shock."

Lord Kilbrandon: "Mr Philipp surely the figure of 30 per cent is a minimum? What you established was that 30 per cent could not be the children of their mother's husbands, not that 70 per cent of them were."

Dr Philipp: "Yes, it is a minimum."

It is indeed a wise child who knows his own father.

Yours faithfully,
K. CAMPBELL,
Haematology Department,
Bucklands Hospital,
Coombe Valley Road,
Dover, Kent.
February 12.

Easing tax burden

From the President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Sir, While we must applaud any easing of the burden of taxation, the suggestion of Sir William Clark and Mr Michael Grylls (February 15) that the Chancellor's immediate priority should be easing the income-tax burden on individuals is not the message we in the North-west are hearing from industry and commerce.

The main demand from our companies is for a reduction in industry's costs: in the surcharge on National Insurance, in the cost of energy, in local authority rates, and in the prices charged by other public-sector authorities which are not faced with the fierce kind of competition that the private sector has to face. Soaring increases, such as that proposed in the price of gas, particularly concern our companies.

Additional capital investment in the infrastructure on which industry and commerce depend is also a high priority.

A survey carried out by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry in January listed a lower rate of inflation and a fall in interest rates as the two most important requirements for improving future business prospects. These were followed by higher productivity, improved cash flow and a lower exchange rate. A cut in personal taxation was not mentioned by any of our correspondents. Whoever your correspondents have been talking to, it is not to my members.

Yours faithfully,
J. McDONALD, President,
Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry,
Ship Canal House,
King Street,
Manchester.
February 17.

European Court powers

From Mr Michael Fallon

Sir, Mr Bewsher (February 9) surprisingly understates his case, which goes far beyond the Scotch whisky industry. Governments of the member states erect far more barriers than any commercial company, even the largest multinational. To force companies to treat as harmonised markets which governments insist on keeping disparate is not only unfair but often positively impedes competition.

The difficulty arises, in part, from the obligation on individuals or companies injured by contravention of Community law by a member state to seek redress in the national courts of that state. *Pace* Mr Tyrell (February 4) this may involve five or more years' litigation in courts of first instance, courts of appeal and courts of cassation before the question reaches the Court of Justice which, even then, cannot award damages. Furthermore, national laws and practice on damages differ widely in the member states.

What is required, if justice is to mean justice, is the right for such individuals or companies to sue the appropriate government for damages before the Court of Justice *direct*. The granting of such a right would unleash forces for harmonisation far greater than those enjoyed by the Commission and would, moreover, massively improve the popularity of the Community in the eyes of those, like Mr Bewsher, at present suffering from a dual standard of law enforcement.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL FALLON,
51 Penham Road, W14.
February 12.

Fall of Singapore

From Mr Correlli Barnett

Sir, Anthony Kemp (feature, February 15) is completely in error when he states in his article on Singapore that "We built our Maginot Line in Singapore to defend ourselves against a Japanese Fleet and refused to believe in the possibility of a landborne invasion".

The Chiefs of Staff Committee's "Far East appreciation" of May, 1937, gave as a possible Japanese option "to land army forces in the Malay Peninsula to advance on Singapore. The Japanese may hope by the combined effect of attrition, air and land attack to force our garrison to surrender before our fleet can arrive to relieve it".

The COS report considered it possible that the Japanese would land in Siamese territory at Chumporn and Singora and move by land to seize the airfields at Victoria Point and Alor Star. This is broadly what the Japanese did in December, 1941. The COS in 1937 then visualised "advance through Malaya towards Singapore; close investment of Singapore Island, and command of naval base by artillery fire". They reckoned that if the Japanese could count on 70 days' delay before the arrival of a British Fleet, and if they "can establish themselves on the mainland, deliberate operations hold for them the possibility of capturing the fortress". In fact they took Singapore in just under the 70 days.

Moreover, by 1940 it had become the established British strategy to found the defence of Singapore in defence of the Malayan Peninsula, and in particular the northern airfields. That was the plan which was put into operation when the Japanese struck on December 8, 1941. The question of Singapore's ability to withstand a close siege from the landward side only arose from the collapse of the British defence of Malaya because of shortcomings in equipment and training.

Thus the peculiarly enduring myth that no one had thought of the Japanese attacking Singapore via "the backdoor" is quite fallacious. Why, one wonders, is it repeated endlessly?

Yours faithfully,
CORRELLI BARNETT,
University of Cambridge History Faculty,
West Road,
Cambridge.
February 15.

From Mr G. N. Burton

Sir, I was captured by the Japanese at the fall of Singapore and am glad to have survived to challenge the assertions made by Anthony Kemp today (February 15) about the present feelings of former prisoners of war.

Though physically beaten by some of them, I do not hate the Japanese, nor do I feel "an understandable sense of bitterness and frustration". Possibly PoWs in Germany *were* generally more fortunate in the ways their captors treated them, but I see no point in such jealous and invidious comparisons.

On the contrary, I am sure many PoWs are grateful for a range of experience which showed us human nature, on both sides, at its worst and at its most sublime. I, for one, claim that "the bitter end" is much less bitter than your article suggests, and, touch wood, my Datsun is running very well!

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY N. BURTON,
Hill View,
Rectory Lane,
Compton Martin,
Bristol.
February 15.

Lifeboat wireless fees

From Commodore L. J. Thomas

Sir, I wonder if many of your readers are aware of a tax imposed on the RNLI (Royal National Life-boat Institution) which, whilst small in terms of revenue for the Government, is a serious drain on the funds of an organization that is supported entirely by voluntary contributions.

I refer to the wireless telegraphy fees payable in respect of wireless transmitters/receivers fitted to lifeboats. These fees were increased enormously from January 1, 1981 (from £6.40 to £17.50 a year in the case of an offshore lifeboat). As a result the RNLI must find over £5,000 a year to cover the cost of licences for its lifeboats. Obviously these boats cannot function effectively without wireless communication.

Representations to the Home Office have received the reply that:

(i) They have no power under the Wireless Telegraphy Act to waive licence fees.

(ii) If amending legislation was introduced it would be difficult to refuse similar requests from other organizations.

The only other organizations covering search and rescue operations at sea on any scale are HM Coastguard and the Ministry of Defence (Navy and Air) who are not liable to pay wireless telegraphy licence fees. It therefore appears impossible for any damaging precedent to be created. The problem of drafting amending legislation should therefore be negligible, should it prove really necessary.

My letter is written on behalf of the members of Chichester Yacht Club, who consider the present situation as most unfair. Their views must be shared by anyone having an interest in safety at sea. We find it hard to understand why the representations already made by the RNLI and the RYA (Royal Yachting Association) to the Home Office over a considerable period should have fallen on such deaf ears.

Yours sincerely,
L. J. THOMAS,
Chichester Yacht Club,
Chichester Yacht Basin,
Birdham,
Chichester,
Sussex.
February 4.

Ethnic schooling

From Councillor Peter Croft

Sir, Councillor Benn's letter to you (February 12) contains various minor errors that weaken his case, and one major one that destroys it. As one of the two councillors primarily responsible for ensuring the sale of an Ealing High School to the Church of England, I am in a reasonable position to point these out.

The opposition, so far from being "considerable", consisted of a few dozen vociferous ideologues. The "local community" was uninterested or in favour. The Church of England opposition consisted almost entirely of one incumbent who has since declared his intention of resigning orders to stand for Parliament in the Labour interest. Choice is most certainly extended in that the school is far more sharply differentiated from other Ealing schools than it was before. And so one could proceed: there is hardly a sentence in Councillor Benn's letter that bears any relationship to reality.

The major flaw in his argument, however, is the amazing assertion that the purpose of education is to break down barriers of class, race, and so on. The purpose of education is to provide people with the skills and knowledge that they need for the best possible adult life. In demonstrating his ignorance of this simple fact, Councillor Benn demonstrates the frightful danger of putting his party in charge of any educational system, in Ealing or elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CROFT,
Members' Room,
Town Hall, Ealing, W5.

Legal precedence

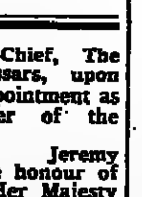
From the Reverend John Pollock

Sir, The Master of the Rolls recently broke a record. My great-grandfather, Lord Chief Baron Pollock, was the oldest common law judge ever to sit on the Bench when he retired in 1886 at the age of 82 years and nine months. Lord Denning has already exceeded him by three months; long may he continue.

The similarities between these eminent lawyers a century apart are interesting. Pollock's father was a saddler, Lord Denning's a draper. Both had two distinguished brothers: a field marshal and a chief justice (Pollock); a general and an admiral (Denning). Before being called to the Bar both were mathematicians. Best of all, as I see it, Lord Denning has for many years been president of the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship *which (as the Lawyers' Prayer* Union) was founded, with others, by the Chief Baron and his son, afterwards Baron Pollock, my grandfather.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN POLLOCK,
Rose Ash House,
South Molton, Devonshire.





COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 18: His Excellency, Mr Samuel Akana Mpuchane was received in audience by The Queen and presented the letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner from the Republic of Botswana in London.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following Members of the High Commission, who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Mr T. M. B. Ikitseng (Counsellor) and Mr D. Rendoh (First Secretary).

Mrs Mpuchane had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Mr Derek Day (Deputy Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs), who had the hounour of being received by Her Majesty was present, and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendence.

Sir Edward Youle was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Hong Kong.

Lady Youle had the honour of being received by Her Majesty.

The Queen gave a luncheon party for The President of the Republic of Iceland.

The following had the honour of being invited: His Excellency Mr Olafur Johannesson (Minister for Foreign Affairs) and Mrs Johannesson, His Excellency the Icelandic Ambassador and Mrs Bjarnason, the Lord Privy Seal and Mrs Atkins, Mr Lindsay Anderson, Professor and Mrs John Bayley, Mr and Mrs Ian Beer and Mr and Mrs Magnus Magnusson.

Her Majesty invested The President of the Republic of Iceland with the Insignia of a Dame Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George.

The Duke od Edinburgh, President of the World Wildlife Fund, left Heathrow Airport, London, this morning in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight to visit Austria, Egypt, India, Italy, Oman, Pakistan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Tunisia.

Major John Cargin is in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
February 18: Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Sanders today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, The Queen's Own Hussars, upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer of the Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jeremy Phipps also had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon assuming his appointment as Commanding Officer of The Queen's Own Hussars.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 18: The Duke of Kent this evening attended the Electronic Components Industry Federation dinner at the Savoy Hotel.

Captain John Stewart was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent today opened Emmanuel Court, Clifton, for the Bristol Old People's Welfare Incorporated.

Mrs David Napier was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
February 18: Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were present this evening at the British premiere of the film "Priest of Love", given in aid of the Royal Marsden Hospital Cancer Fund for the Carol Hazell Appeal, at the Odean Theatre, Kensington.

Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox was in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh has been pleased to appoint Lieutenant-Commander Andrew Guy Wynn, Royal Navy, to be Equerry to His Royal Highness, in place of Major John Malcolm Vincent MacInnes Cargin, Royal Irish Rangers, who relinquishes the appointment on July 31.

Prince Andrew is 22 today.

The Duchess of Gloucester will attend the Ambassadorial Ball Soiree Francaise in aid of UNA/UNICEF at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London, on February 22.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will be admitted as Honorary Freemen of the City of Gloucester at Guildhall, and His Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, the Gloucestershire Regiment, accompanied by Her Royal Highness, will review his regiment on April 24.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Harold Horsfall Turner will be held on Thursday, March 11, 1982, at St Clement Danes, Strand, London, WC2, at noon.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C P Anstee and Miss C S Spencer
The engagement is announced between Christopher, only son of Mr and Mrs Paul Bennett, of Cape Town, South Africa, and Candy, youngest daughter of the late Lieutenant Colonel E L Spencer and Mrs Spencer, of Lewes, Sussex.

Mr N S Balcombe and Miss C Lipton
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Simon, son of Mr Fred Balcombe and the late Mrs Clarice Balcombe, stepson of Mrs Rhoda Balcombe, and Carolyn, daughter of Mr Gerald Lipton and Mrs Shirley Lipton.

Mr J. G. Coltman-Rogers and Miss S. L. Whately
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, eldest son of the late Mr David Coltman-Rogers, of Stanage Park, Radnorshire, and Mrs Alistair Lyell, of Pallinsburn, Northumberland, and Sophia, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Whately, of Dorset.

Mr D. R. Costley-White and Mrs M. A. Jakubski
The engagment is announced between David Richard, son of the late Cyril Costley-White, CMG, and of Mrs Elisabeth Costley-White, of Dinder, Somerset, and Charlotte Elizabeth, widow of Marek Jakubski, and daughter of Dr and Mrs Stephen Way, of Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Dr J. F. Dreyer and Miss S. C. Prebble
The engagement is announced between Jonathan Frederic Dreyer of 1022F Woodson Road, Baltimore, MD 21212, United States, younger son of Captain and Mrs Raymond Dreyer, of Ottawa, Canada, and Sheryn Cecily Prebble, of Christchurch, New Zealand, daughter of Mr and Mrs Cecil Prebble of Ashburton, New Zealand.

Mr E. K. Fraher and Miss M. A. O'Neill
The engagement is announced between Kevin, only son of the late Mr and Mrs E. J. Fraher, of Cappoquin, co Waterford, and Marie, only daughter of the late Mr W. J. O'Neill and Mrs Mai O'Neill, of Capparattin, Co, Tipperary, and Putney, London.

Mr D T Frank and Miss D. L Abbott
The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr and Mrs T Frank, of Shrewsbury, and Diane, twin daughter of Mr and Mrs S N Abbott, of Farnham Common, Buckinghamshire.

Mr N. H. A. Goodman and Miss S. Millett
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Perry and Marcia Goodman, of London, W2, and Sarah, daughter of Alan and Janet Millett, of Mill Hill.

Mr H. A. Lorie and Miss H. R. Knorpel
The engagement is announced between Hilton Anthony, only son of Mr and Mrs Clem Lorie, of 43, Montreal Avenue, Leeds, and Helen Rowena, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Knorpel, of 32 Sunnybank, Epsom, Surrey.

Mr G. D. Lyndon Skeggs and Miss M. L Feilden
The engagement is announced between Douglas, younger son of Dr and Mrs P. Lyndon Skeggs, of the Grange, Preston Candover, near Basingstoke, Hampshire, and Imogen, second daughter of Mr and Mrs M. O. Feilden, of Lubborn House, Baltonsborough, near Glastonbury, Somerset.

Mr R. N. C. Morris and Miss J. E. Taylor
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mr and Mrs F. R. Morris, of Radlett, Hertfordshire, and Jillian, elder daughter of Mr R. J. E. Taylor, of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, and Mrs J. C. Todd, of Palm Desert, California, United States.

Major G. C. Rush and Mrs P. J. Calnan
The engagement is announced between George Campion Rush, of Farley Hill, Berkshire, husband of the late Eileen Rush, and Patricia Joy Calnan, of Reading, wife of the late Denis John Calnan, RN.

Mr T. I. Soames and Miss D. J. Turner
The engagement is announced between Trevor Irwin, son of Mr Leonard Soames and Mrs Sally Soames, of London, and Diane Jeanne, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs P. E. Turner, of Burton Leonard, North Yorkshire.

Mr S. F. Staruch and Miss B. P. Taylor
The engagement is announced between Stanislaw Franciszek, elder son of Mr and Mrs Piotr Staruch, of Warsaw, Poland, and Barbara Patricia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Vivian Taylor, of Coed-y-Mwstwr, Bridgend, South Wales.

Mr R. J. Stead and Miss N. M. Gent
The engagement is announced between Richard James, younger son of Mr and Mrs W. B. Stead, of 112 Cambridge Street, SW1, and Nicola Mary, second daughter of Mr and Mrs M. J. Gent, of 15 South Terrace, SW7.

Mr K. F. Unwin and Miss J. F. P. Arnold
The engagement is announced between Kieran, younger son of the late Mr Arthur R. M. Unwin and of Mrs Catherine Unwin, of Herne Bay, Kent, and Janet Fiona Pitcairn, daughter of Mr and Mrs John L. Arnold, of Westfield, Hawkhurst, Kent.

Marriages

Mr G. Nevill and Lady Beatrix Lambton
The marriage took place quietly yesterday in London between Mr Guy Nevill, elder son of Lord and Lady Rupert Nevill, and Lady Beatrix Lambton, daughter of Lord and Lady Lambton.

Mr R. J. Adams and Miss D. C. Street
A service of blessing took place on February 18, at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, following the marriage of Mr Robert Adams to Miss Clare Street. A reception was held afterwards at the Royal Opera House.

£24,200 for timepiece

A sale of watches, clocks and scientific instruments was held at Sotheby's yesterday totalling £276,591. The top price of the sale was £24,200 for a mid-eighteenth-century gold and agate timepiece, in the form of a casket, the lid opening to reveal a verge watch movement by Charles Cabrier, of London.

That was almost double the estimate, a result of competitive bidding. Other high prices in the sale were £13,200 paid by the London dealer R. A. Lee for a small and rare early longcase clock, by Fromanteel, and £9,900 for a Burr walnut quarter repeating bracket timepiece, by John Knibb.

Also at Sotheby's a sale of silver totalled £71,961 with a top price of £2,640 paid by an Australian for a George III oval teatray.

Bonhams held a sale of English and Continental furniture yesterday, which totalled £47,080, with 10 per cent unsold.

The top price was £2,640, paid for lot 91a, a Queen Anne walnut bureau (est £2,000 to £3,000). Lot 53, a fine Dutch walnut and marquetry centre table, fetched £2,145 and a Scandinavian secretaire abattant, around 1820 (est £1,000 to £1,500) realized £1,650.



A portrait by Juliet Pannett of Sir William Gladstone, Chief Scout, who retires next Wednesday, when the painting, commissioned by the Scouts Association, will be unveiled at the association's headquarters in Queen's Gate, west London.

Sotheby's Belgravia to close

By Frances Gibb

High interest rates and inflation have forced Sotheby's, the auctioneers, to streamline their entire United Kingdom operation, which involves the closure of their Belgravia salesroom, the thinning down of salesrooms in Torquay and Chester and redundancies in most branches.

Mr Graham Llewellyn, chief executive, said yesterday that although the art market was not in as bad a state as some reports indicated, it was "not in the finest state ever". Sales were down.

Some 60 staff at Sotheby's Belgravia saleroom, which was set up in 1971 to promote the Victorian collecting market, were told on Friday that most of their departments would merge with existing departments at the main saleroom in Bond Street.

That move, planned for some time, has been precipitated by Sotheby's purchase of part of the Steinway building adjacent to the Bond Street premises. Mr Llewellyn said all the specialist collectors' sales would continue.

Staff at Belgravia had naturally built up an esprit de corps there and "it is not funny to lose colleagues and friends", he said. "But we believe it is a very positive step which will have great benefits, bringing everything to one place."

There would inevitably be some redundancies, which would largely be dealt with by natural wastage. Since the streamlining started last September some 70 of the 1,000 United Kingdom staff had taken voluntary redundancy. He would not say what the target figure was.

At Torquay, 10 people are to be made redundant. At Chester six people are to go. Mr Llewellyn said that service would be maintained in both places.

Sotheby's in New York recently shed about 200 staff through voluntary redundancy. Last July it announced a turnover in their London saleroom of £93,204,000 and in the rest of the United Kingdom salerooms £9,630,000.

For the first time last year Sotheby's declined to release their end-of-the-year figures. Mr Llewellyn said yesterday that the firm had simply decided they were not representative of the season's trading and would no longer be disclosing them. He agreed that the art market was suffering in some sections, such as jewelry, which last year contributed £46m to the group's turnover. Vendors were not willing to put top quality stones on the market when they once fetched £80,000 a carat and now made £40,000-£50,000 a carat, he said.

☐ Sotheby's yesterday launched an international poetry competition with prizes worth £21,000, of which £15,000 plus 12 bottles of claret selected by the Master of Wines at Sotheby's. The next four winners take £4,000, £3,000, £2,000 and £1,000 and several bottles of claret, all the other winners recieve two bottles.

Birthdays today



Mr John Freeman, chairman of London Weekend Television, who is 67.

The Rev Dr G. Henton Davies, 76; Lord Forbes, 64; Lord Henniker, 66; the Right Rev R. S. Hook, 65; Mr Lee Marvin, 58; Professor Bernard Meadows, 67; Sir John N. Nicholson, 71; Sir Daniel Pettit, 67; Mrs Erin Pizzey, 43, Mr Brian Tesler, 53.

Arthur Bliss award

The Performing Right Society is to inaugurate an annual scholarship in memory of the late Sir Arthur Bliss, the composer, who was president of the society from 1954 to 1975.

BBC urges wavelength changes by 1986

By a Staff Reporter

The BBC wants The Home Office to agree to clear the emergency services from the VHF broadcasting range by 1986 so that five sectors will be available for radio, providing separate networks for Radios 1, 2, 3 and 4 and educational programmes, as well as two bands for local radio, BBC and commercial.

Police and fire services, nationalized industries and other public utilities use the frequencies and it is said that the Home Office may wish to delay the change because of the high cost of reequipping. But the BBC engineers believe the cost may not be high because much VHF equipment will become obsolete in any case during the present decade.

International agreement to clear the whole VHF range between 88 and 108 Mhz for broadcasting reached at the World Administration Radio Conference in Geneva in 1979. In 1986 a detailed international plan to be evolved at a two-part conference in Geneva will come into effect.

Mr Pat Leggatt, head of BBC engineering information, said: "Many of our European neighbours will want to start implementing the plan straight away. If we are held up we may be permanently worse off."

It was agreed at the last conference that present users of the middle part of the band, in this country, the police and fire services, could stay until 1990 and those of the upper part, the nationalized industries and public utilities, could stay until 1995.

But in urging clearance by 1986 the BBC cites two reports on broadcasting, Annan and Crawford, and says part of the band should have been cleared by now. For all the BBC's plans to be possible, the whole of the VHF band will be needed.

Latest wills

Professor Robert Trelford McKenzie, of Kensington, London, and Haugh Island, Shepperton, Surrey, the political commentator and Professor of Sociology at the London School of Economics, left estate in Engand and Wales valued at £117,559 net. After some personal bequests he left his books and pamphlets to the British Library of Political and Economic Science at the London School of Economics, and the residue for charitable purposes in England.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):
Brookshaw, Mr Stanley James, of Market Drayton, Shropshire, intestate £277,047
Curtis, Mr George Henry John, of Clifton, Bristol intestate £229,858
Lewis, Mr John Whitney, of Stotfold, Bedfordshire, chartered civil engineer £208,620

Moreover . . . Miles Kington

Nineteen eighty-two, as you know, is the Year of Charles Darwin, and almost every conceivable celebration has been planned except an appearance by Charles Darwin on the Michael Parkinson Show. Today we put that right, with these exclusive transcripts.

Parkinson: My guest this evening is someone who has done more to change the history of mankind than anyone who has ever been on this show. I spent most of my youth in Barnsley Public Library poring over his works, and it has always been my greatest ambition to meet him and ask him what they mean. Ladies and gentlemen — Charles Darwin!

(*Stupendous ovation. Darwin comes down the grand staircase and sits in the right chair.*)

Parkinson: Super. Now, Charles, in a moment I'll be asking you to play a piano duet with Yehudi Menuhim or perhaps do a few steps with Lionel Blair, but first let me ask you about the book you've got out this month.

Darwin: It's called *The Origin of The Species* and it's out in paperback this month.

Parkinson: Could you very briefly sum up the theory of the book for those in the audience who may not have had a chance to read it yet?

Darwin: Certainly, Mr Parkinson. I am trying to say that the available evidence tends to suggest that the natural world is governed by a set of laws which favour species which adapt to their environment, or in other words....

Parkinson: Or in other words that the Book of Genesis is as dead as mutton?.

Darwin: Yes, I suppose you could....

Parkinson: Amazing, I don't think I'm betraying any secrets if I say that you are also featured on our new postage stamps, together with what looks like two glove puppets.

Darwin: Yes. This was an idea of my publisher, who has arranged a television children's series for me, in which with the help of Tommy the Turtle and Tristan the Tortoise I try to explain why one of them is doomed to extinction before the series ends.

Parkinson: Magic. You've done a lot of work with animals, haven't you? You must have had a good many hilarious experiences with them.

Darwin: Oh yes. (*Pause.*)

Parkinson: Could you tell us one?

Darwin: Well, I remember being very excited to find on the Galapagos Islands a kind of large terrapin which was significantly different from anything on the mainland. There was, as far as I could observe, only one of its kind in existence, so of course I recorded its every move. But one day it had vanished completely. It simply wasn't there. It couldn't have swum away, as it was incapable of swimming, and it couldn't have flown for similar reasons, nor did it have any natural enemies on the island. When my small team and I met for the evening meal I put the problem to them, and none of us could think of a possible explanation. Except, curiously, our Chilean cook, Garcia.

Parkinson: And that was?

Darwin: Quite simple. We had just eaten it.

Parkinson: So you are responsible personally for the extinction of an entire line of evolution?

Darwin: Yes. It tasted very good, though, so it was probably justified.

Parkinson: I think I'm right in saying that that recipe, suitably adapted for any kind of turtle, is featured in a book you have coming out next month?

Darwin: Yes, *Charles Darwin's Evolutionary Cookbook*. It's got such mouth-watering ideas as Galapagos Gazpacho, Finch Pie and Primordial Soup, and many others.

Parkinson: Wonderful. I know that worms have played a very large part in your work. Will your book have any recipes for . . . ?

Darwin: No, I'm afraid not, but I have been working closely with Andrew Lloyd-Webber on a new musical to be called Worms, so the research will not be wasted.

Parkinson: Magic. In a moment we'll be talking to James Joyce, and I can promise that he'll have some very good new Irish jokes for you, but meanwhile — Charles Darwin, thank you.

Darwin: My pleasure. (*Stupendous ovation, etc.*)

Delay in authors' payments

By Kenneth Gosling

Authors expecting to receive their first payments under the Government's public lending right scheme in 1982-83 will be disappointed. Administrative and technical dalays make it unlikely that the first royalties will be paid until early the next financial year, 1983-84.

The Writers' Guild of Great Britain said yesterday: "Every day's delay prolongs the injustice of running the largest public library system in the western world without paying the authors of the books."

A revised draft scheme is expected to be debated and, authors' organizations hope, approved by Parliament early next month. While far from ideal, the guild says, the scheme does represent authors' sole prospect of exercizing the right Parliament voted them three years ago.

The Public Lending Right (PLR) Act was passed with all-party support in March, 1979, and established a £2m fund from which authors will be paid annually in proportion to the loans from public libraries, as shown by a loan sample.

A registrar has been appointed and it is still hoped that the registration of authors will start next year.

Reception

Apostolic Pro-Nuncio designate
The Apostolic Pro-Nuncio designate held a reception at the Apostolic Nunciature last night to mark the investiture of Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, VC, OM, as a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Gregory the Great. The Baroness Ryder was awarded the "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice".

Dinners

Butchers' Company
Sir Murray and Lady Fox were the guests of honour at the annual ladies' livery dinner of the Butchers' Company held at Butchers' Hall last night. The deputy Master, Mr Norman L. Hall, presided and the speakers were Sir Murray Fox, Mr L. V. G. Dennis, Mr J. K. Curran and the Master of the Solicitors' Company. Among others present were the High Commissioner for New Zealand, the Master of the Saddlers' Company and Mr W. P. G. Milne and their ladies.

The Corporation of London gave a dinner at Mansion House last night in honour of the President of Iceland, Mrs Vigdis Finnbogadottir. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffx and their escorts, received the guests. Among those present were:

Dr and Mrs Olafur Johannesson, Ambassador and Mrs Hördur Helgason, Ambassador and Mrs Olafur Egilsson, the Lord Privy Seal and Mrs Atkins, the High Commissioner for Mauritius and Lady Teelock, the Ambassador of Finland and Mme Tottermen, the Ambassador of Iceland and Mrs Bjarnason, the Ambassador of Sweden and Mrs Lind, the Ambassador of Denmark and Mrs Dahlgaard, the Chargé d'Affaire of Norway and Mrs Knudsen, Lord and Lady Kennet, Lord and Lady Maybray-King, Lord and Lady Adean, representatives from the Icelandic Embassy and residents in London, representatives of the Civel Service, people having commercial and cultural connexions with Iceland, aldermen, common councilmen and Officers of the Corporation of London and their ladies.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:

Mr Ewen Fergusson, aged 49, to be British Ambassador to South Africa.

The Archdeacon of Macclesfield, the Venerable Rennie Simpson, and the Chaplain-General of Prisons, the Rev Percival L. Ashford, to be Chaplains to the Queen.

Mr C. D. Voelcker to be a Metropolitan stipendiary magistrate from March 1.

Dr J. M. Cooper to be honorary consultant in speech therapy to the Army.

Benenden School

Benenden School scholarship awards, 1982, are: Major scholarship: Maria Flemington (Western College Preparatory School). Exhibitions: Philippa Purser (Hightrees School and Benenden); Rebecca Tarling (Garden House School). The Music and Art Scholarships: No award.

CORRECTION

Yesterday's report of the General Synod of The Church of England wrongly described the Dean of Norwich, the Very Rev David Edwards, as Dean of Lincoln, and gave Canon Richard Craston's name as Graston.

In the photograph on page 14 the Right Rev John Tinsley was on the right, not the left, as stated, and the Right Rev John Yates on the left.

OBITUARY

DAME NGAIO MARSH

Crime novelist and influence on New Zealand drama

Dame Ngaio Marsh, DBE, FRSA, who died in Christchurch, New Zealand, yesterday at the age of 82 was one of those writers who, during the 1930s raised the detective novel to a high level of literary art. In New Zealand, however, she was probably even better known for her services to the theatre.

Her father worked for the Bank of New Zealand and her maternal grandfather had been one of the first English settlers in New Zealand. She was born on April 23 1899 and given the Maori name, Ngaio, which is a flowering tree and also means "light on the water". After being educated at St Margaret's College and Canterbury University College School of Art, Christchurch, she spent several years touring sporadically as a repertory actress, before coming to England in 1928 to stay with the colourful aristocratic family about whom she afterwards wrote as the "Lampreys". In partnership with one of them she opened and ran a precariously viable gift shop in Knightsbridge.

As an amusement on wet evenings, she scribbled out her first novel, *A Man Lay Dead* (1934). This was an amateurish work, but it introduced the hero of all her stories, Chief Inspector Roderick Alleyn (named after the Elizabethan actor who founded her father's school, Dulwich). During the next few years, in such books as *Vintage Murder* (1937), *Artists in Crime* (1938) and *Death in a White Tie* (1938), her style and sense of character matured. *Surfeit of Lampreys* (1941) was recognized as an almost perfect classical detective story, combining an ingenious puzzle with all the attributes of a good novel. For settings and background material she used her interest in art (Alleyn married Agatha Troy, a famous painter), her own New Zealand country side (notably in wartime stories, *Colour Scheme* (1943) and *Died in the Wool* (1945)), and her knowledge of the theatre, which provided the framework for some of her most successful books, such as *Final Curtain* (1947), *Opening Night* (1951) and *False Scent* (1960).

Her mother's illness had taken her back to New Zealand where she kept house for her father and wrote detective stories. When war broke out she joined the Red Cross Transport Unit and became a Head Section-Leader. At the same time she directed plays for a number of Repertory Societies.

In 1944 she began working with Mr D. D. O'Connor to establish a permanent non-profit-making theatre guild which would, as she put it, "get a strong drama thread weaving between Great Britain and the Dominions".



She was appointed honorary lecturer in Drama at Canterbury University College and in 1948 was appointed OBE for "services to New Zealand drama and literature". She was made DBE in 1966, this honour too, being as much a recognitions of her work in the theatre, as for her writing. When she came to England to recruit young actors for a tour of New Zealand and Australia, Anthony Quayle introduced her to the Royal Empire Society as "the mother, sometimes the step-mother, always the god-mother" of whatever drama there was in New Zealand.

Although she spent at least four months of the year producing plays, writing books remained her chief business, and she took it seriously. "My standards of style and plot have gone up," she said in 1960. "I start with characters. I think my books are always terribly easy to guess, and of course I could make it harder by falsifying the characters. That's the real danger of artificiality in detective stories." This was a shrewd assessment of her own work. What her readers continued to enjoy was not the problem, which often seemed old-fashioned by the changing standards of post-war crime fiction, but the affectionate wit generously lavished even on her minor characters. If her most recent books betrayed a certain slackening of energy, they did include one, *Black As He's Painted* (1974) which in its Kensington setting and its gaiety of style went back to, and was worthy of, her very best period.

She came regularly to London, which always held a quality of romance for her, but her home was still the wooden house, with its beautiful garden overlooking Christchurch, which her father had built. Memories of New Zealand when she was a child, her loved and loving parents, of how she was drawn into the theatre, and of her first impressions of London, are most engagingly recalled in her autobiography, *Black Beech and Honeydew* (1966).

DR FRANCOISE HENRY

Francoise Henry, an authority on early Irish Christian art died on February 10 in France, at the age of 79. She was born in Paris in June, 1902, and was the granddaughter on her mother's side of Charles Clément, biographer of Géricault.

As a student at the Ecole du Louvre and the Sorbonne, she attended lectures by Henri Hubert, l'Abbé Breuil, André Michel, Gustave Fougères and Robert Rey; she studied medieval art under Professor Emile Mâle and his successor Henri Focillion. While working as assistant to Hubert at the Musée des Antiquités Nationales at St. Germain-en-Laye she became friendly with an Irish girl, Carrie Fitzgerald, from whose home in Tipperary she visited the Rock of Cashel and the Ahenny Crosses on her first visit to Ireland in 1926.

On her return to Paris, she was encouraged by Focillon to undertake the study of Irish early Christian art. In the following years she travelled in Ireland by bicycle with her friends Carrie Fitzgerald and Marie Duport, and in 1933 published *La Sculpture Irlandaise*, her principal thesis for the state doctorate.

In her published work she continued to develop the study of enamels and metalwork, illuminated manuscripts, the primitive monasteries of the west of Ireland, and the carvings on slabs, pillars, high crosses and Romanesque churches in the context of Europe and the east Mediterranean world. This development can be traced through *Irish Art* (1940) to the three-volume *L'art Irlandais*, published by Zodiaque in 1963 and in an English edition in 1965, 1967 and 1970. After the publication of *The Book of Kells and its Decoration* in 1974, she turned to the study of later medieval Irish art.

In 1932, she took a teaching post in the French Department at University College, Dublin, and in 1934 began an annual series of lectures on European painting for the Purser-Griffith scholarship. She was awarded the Legion of Honour for service to her country in the 1939-1945 War.

In 1948 she joined the Department of Archaeology at UCD where she set up the extensive photographic archive of early Christian Irish art and its European context. From 1965, the Department of the History of European Painting at UCD gave degree courses under her direction. She retired from teaching in 1974 and lived at Lindry, Yonne, and in Dublin.

She was a member of the Royal Irish Academy and a governor of the National Gallery of Ireland. She had honorary doctorates from Dublin University and the National University of Ireland. A scholar of originality and breadth, her authority was formidable in the whole field of Irish early Christian art and its background.

HIS HON G. G. LIND-SMITH

His Honour Judge David writes:—

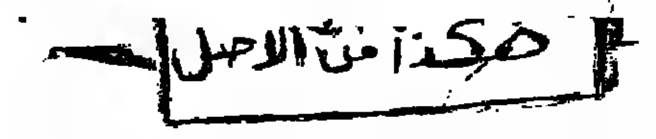
Lind-Smith will be remembered by his many friends and colleagues for the sharpness of his intellect and his remarkable legal brain. Not only could he get straight to the root of any problem, he could, with unerring accuracy, recall any decided case on the point and could often, from memory, quote the name of the case, the year it was decided and the page on which the report was to be found.

He came to practice in Chester in 1932 and returned there on demobilisation at the end of the war. It may truly be said that he laid the foundations of the Chester Local Bar, for in his lifetime and under his inspiration and guidance, he saw it grow from two, to its present strength of thirty-five.

On the Bench his great learning, allied to much practical common sense made him a most distinguished Judge. He was courteous at all times and patient almost to a fault. Many unrepresented litigants will remember with gratitude, his kindness and helpfulness to them.

Sir Christopher Masterman, CSI, CIE, who died on February 16 at the age of 92, was appointed Chief Secretary and Adviser to the Governor of Madras in 1946 and the following year Deputy High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in Madras.

Lady Elizabeth Tyler, daughter of the eighth Earl of Roden, and widow of Brigadier Maxwell Tyler, DSO, MC, died on February 7 at the age of 75. He died in 1974. She was previously married to Mr G. F. Annesley, Mr C. D. A. Ross, and Commander Warden Gilchrist.



Theatre

The power of evil

The Portage to San Cristobal of A.H.

Mermaid

It is George Steiner's belief that tragedy and language itself have been irreparably devalued by the bestial events of this century, and that human imagination is impotent to grasp the recorded facts. In *The Portage* he had the courage not only to put his own imagination to this test, but to do so through the ultimate fictional cliché with which Peter Ustinov once summed up the fatuity of Hollywood: "Hitler: Is He Dead?"

The novel examines the dilemma that has haunted the Western conscience since the Nuremberg Trials: what justice can there be for criminals whose acts dwarf all previous notions of human crime? It also shows a Jewish intellectual, for whom language defines our moral condition, using all his powers to penetrate the mind of the enemy.

To transfer such a work to the stage is not simply a technical matter. It shifts a piece of philosophic fiction in the direction of melodrama; and moves the figure of Hitler back into his favourite role, as star actor, now also credited with the sympathetic assets of extreme old age.

Christopher Hampton's adaptation finds a master key to the work through simultaneous action, for which Jocelyn Herbert supplies three acting areas: the black stage floor for the Brazilian forest where Hitler is run to earth by a Jewish expedition; a platform which is trucked on for the interior scenes; and an upper gallery, occupied for the first half of the play by Sebastian Shaw, as Hitler's implacable hunter, directing operations over the radio, delivering litanies of the Jewish dead as if numbering the sands of the sea, and warning his men not to let their captive speak, not even to look at him because of the "human mask" he wears.

Meanwhile, as news of the capture leaks out, we see its repercussions around the world: we see Soviet history being rewritten, British diplomacy coolly digesting the rumours, a bourgeois German survivor dismissing the past as "exaggerated", and the United States State Department reducing the case to international law while, in the background, there appears the spectral party in the forest, carrying their burden through fever-infested swamps towards the distant goal of San Cristobal.

The central meaning of the play is in these glimpses of the external world. These people, no less than the unnumbered victims of the death camps, are inheritors of the Nazi legacy; numbed by the normality of genocide, and incapable of the human response of former ages. Their response is in tragic contrast to the haunted speeches of Lieber at his radio set, endlessly reciting his catalogue of atrocities lest it should be forgotten or come to be taken for granted.

The central event also grows from that same contrast; focusing on one set of vultures who plan to move in by helicopter, massacre the Jewish party, and auction their captive to the highest bidder. And the last image in John Dexter's production is of the old man, looking out with huge wild eyes, as the helicopter engines swell to a murderous crescendo.

Alec McCowen, for good or ill, occupies the stage in a hugely spectacular star part; fearsomely prepared, building suspense through long silence, and finally speaking for 25 minutes in the forest trial.

The substance of his speech, namely that Hitler claims credit for the birth of modern Israel, has been widely publicized. What McCowen adds to it is a Satanic quality that undercuts the argument even at its most invincibly logical.

Derision, loathing, parody, and a grating vocal sound, like a clarinet with a split reed, are the colours he uses; all the more powerful for avoiding any attempt at direct vocal imitation. Any sense that this pathetic old man is irrelevant to the world debate ranging around his exhausted shell is disproved by the performance. Dexter's production is about the positive power of evil as well as about our numbed response to it.

Irving Wardle

In three weeks the Barbican Centre, costing a decade and a fortune, will be open to the artistic elements. There are doubters still, but Henry Wrong, administrator from the start, has never lost faith . . .

Programmed right across the board

"There'll never be another one!" Max Miller used to warn his audiences, in case there were those not making the most of their opportunity to see and hear him. The same claim could fairly be made by the Barbican Arts Centre after its official opening on March 3. The Barbican received the go-ahead on April 15, 1970, at an estimated cost of £16m, and it has been finished at a little under ten times that figure. No arts complex of comparable size and scope is likely to be seen in western Europe for many moons to come.

Henry Wrong has been in charge of the Barbican project throughout those 12 years. He is a Canadian, given to soft-toned speech and bright-toned ties. Wrong was once described as looking like a cultured owl, but there is little owlish in his method of work. He served part of his apprenticeship in arts administration as one of Rudolf Bing's assistants at the Metropolitan Opera, New York, after a spell at Glyndebourne. The Bing influence lingers and Wrong admits that his involvement in the transfer of the Met in the mid-Sixties from its old home on 39th Street to the Lincoln Center has been of crucial help: the commonest criticism of the Barbican, apart from its cost, is its location.

"There are plenty of parallels between the Barbican and that move by the Met. When the Met's uprooting was first mooted there was an outcry from many of the regular patrons. I remember being told time and again that *no one* went to the West Side, except possibly to catch the boat to Europe. And look at the Lincoln Center now.

"It was exactly the same when the Festival Hall was being built. John Christie at Glyndebourne predicted out-and-out failure. 'People do not cross the Thames to listen to music', he said, conveniently forgetting for the moment Glyndebourne's own geographical position. Audiences will go where the product is right and they are far less set in their habits than many people make out.



The administrator in his office at the Barbican

"Yes, I confess to Rudi's influence. He killed the attitude among some members of the staff he inherited that they didn't have to work. He used to prowl around the Met and make people jump. I practise it myself a little. The other day I found part of the Catering Area at the Barbican resembling Liverpool Street Station on a Saturday night, and I hope my reaction on that occasion would have made Maria Callas look like Raggedy Ann."

Henry Wrong reckons that his darkest hour was right at the beginning, on that April day in 1970 when the Court of Common Council in the City of London, who are his lords and masters, came close to rejecting the Barbican scheme. Since then the opposition, frequently led by Sir Edward Howard, has remained strident.

"There was another moment in 1975 when Howard appeared totally determined to have that large hole, which was the Barbican site, filled in. I think it was then that I lost all my hair." (A pat on the shining crown.) "Of course there have been moments of acute depression caused by the group I call the 'professional knockers', those who want to destroy every new project and who, once they have failed in one area, immediately turn their attention to another. But possibly even more dispiriting was the opposition that came not from the 'philistines' but from within the arts world itself. Some of it was occasioned by jealousy, some by fear on the part of those who thought that the grants to their own houses might be cut. Others were just plain against us, including one prominent member of the Covent Garden board — although I'm happy to say that he's now changed his mind."

The Barbican's two major tenants are the Royal Shakespeare Company and the London Symphony Orchestra. It was the running costs of the RSC and their new theatre, which is likely to turn out the most glittering jewel in the Barbican's crown, that first caused City apprehension. It was decided to offer the RSC a 25-year lease, reviewable by both sides every three years. The RSC seem to be digging themselves well into their new home. The LSO's situation is based on a shorter-term agreement of a renewable three-year tenancy. The LSO have maintained their foothold in the Festival Hall, wisely, because their job is the more difficult of the two. They have divided their appearances into four-week seasons because the Barbican concert hall will also be required for conferences, and that cuts out uninterrupted rehearsals.

It has been disingenuously suggested that a whole new concert-going audience can be created from the City, and those who work there, without affecting takings on the South Bank, which has had its share of sparsely attended evenings this winter. But already there is one programming clash where the same item is being performed on the same evening by different forces north and south of the Thames.

"Of course, we're trying to cater for those who work in the City. That's why we're having a number of early evening performances. And I think we'll be well placed when the four-and-a-half-day working week comes, which it surely will quite soon. But it would be naive to pretend that we're not in competition with the South Bank. It's unfortunate about that clash, but since it's there then let the best man win.

"But our programming will be much broader than the Festival Hall's at the moment. I'm aiming for across-the-board listeners and am all in favour of taking popular entertainers, either as part of a European tour or through our own promotion — the Three Degrees will be one of the first. I *like* popular music." And, to prove the point, Nina Simone and Dorothy Squires will be making their way to the Barbican. A little Radio 2 perhaps.

That may be quite literally looked down upon by the residents of the high-rise blocks around the Barbican. They have already put a stop to the sound of music on the terraces after 10 pm and are by no means all in favour of Henry Wrong's determination to keep the restaurants going after the performances.

"I never want the Barbican to give the impression of being a host who is tired of his guests. Of course there are some residents who see all sorts of bogeymen in every corner, but I hope we'll be able to persuade them that these are phantoms. I'm looking forward to summer evenings on the terraces with music and the sound of the fountains playing on the lake." And if Sir Edward could somehow be persuaded to fall into that lake then doubtless Henry Wrong's pleasure would be complete.

John Higgins

Television

Magnetic ring

Herol "Bomber" Graham is black, beautiful in the way of an athlete, floats like a butterfly but has yet to prove he can sting like a bee. BBC2's Forty Minutes took a walk round him as he trained, fought for and won the British Commonwealth light middleweight title last November and showed us the result of their research last night.

Andy Stevenson's production was amiable rather than gripping. The fight got in the way. Graham is the pride of Sheffield, a loving father, though not a husband, and a comic turn at working men's clubs, where he clowns well while hopefuls try to hit him.

He trains to the music of Glen Miller, pleasurably nostalgic but not the ideal tempo for "a lazy bastard" as his manager, Brendan Ingle, affectionately calls him. Ingle is an Irishman dedicated to Graham and boxing, whose gym is open to all, a school where he seeks to turn bad boys into good ones, good ones into better ones. There is no doubt that Ingle has, as they say in his own country, the gift. He can charm a bird from a tree and, apparently, a bovver boy from the National Front. Graham looks on him as a father, and takes the odd slur on his legitimacy with filial good humour.

On ITV, Lorimar Productions, those wonderful people who gave us that nightmarish slice of the American dream, *Dallas*, offered the first excerpt of a long — 18 episodes — Californian essay which will confirm the beliefs of those who think that too much influence will weaken you. These days it is comforting to go along with them.

Falcon Crest, bought by — and somehow it seems ironic — Yorkshire, stars Jane Wyman, remembered as the deaf mute in *Johnny Belinda* or even perhaps as an earlier wife of Ronald Reagan. Here she is a dreadnought grandma, head of a family who promise to have all those problems that make America a happy hunting ground for shrinks.

She runs the family winery — a subtle change from oil wells — but her hold is threatened when her brother falls to his death while trying to prevent his niece dallying with a drifter among the casks. Grandma disposes of the body over a cliff because Daddy has only left her the business providing no one has a suspicious death.

The family gather for the funeral, beautifully attired, with heads — as in all such programmes — that appear to have daily, over-fussy attention from hairdressers. Inside the heads all kinds of things buzz and, by the end of episode one, the plot has thickened to a point where future stirring would seem to require nuclear power.

Falcon Crest comes in the wake of all the Californian wine now so popular, even with the cognoscenti. My advice would be to knock off a bottle before watching episode two.

Dennis Hackett



Waldo (James Cagney) orders a marksman to fire on Coalhouse Walker

Cinema

Uncluttered but ominous line

Ragtime (AA)

ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

Priest of Love (AA)

Classic, Haymarket

Winter of Our Dreams (X)

The Lane

"Thus did the artist point his life along the lines of flow of American energy": thus E. L. Doctorow began a section of his 1975 novel *Ragtime*, a kaleidoscope of American life in the turbulent years before the First World War, after bringing the character of Tateh to the brink of a career in moving pictures. Lines of flow and American energy characterize the novel so much that its own movie version was inevitable after much preparation (and a false start by Robert Altman) it has finally arrived, directed by Milos Forman.

Doctorow's narrative audaciously blends historical and fictional characters. A nameless middle-class family from New Rochelle variously mingle with Evelyn Nesbit (the grasping girl for whom Harry K. Thaw shot the architect Stanford White) and the activists Emma Goldman and Booker T. Washington. Freud and Jung tour the Lower East Side; Harry Houdini performs endless stunts. A new century is seen bubbling in the melting-pot.

Considering the book's wealth of incident, Forman's own lines of flow are strikingly uncluttered. The historical characters are drastically pruned (once put on the screen they would seem fictional anyway), while the climax — the occupation of the Pierpont Morgan Library by Coalhouse Walker, an enraged black musician turned revolutionary — is considerably expanded. But various devices are used to conjure up Doctorow's crowded pages. Newsreels, half faked and half real, gather up some of the missing persons. Forman also tries to simulate the blend of history and fiction by casting performers with historical associations. James Cagney, off the screen since *One, Two, Three* in 1961, returns as Police Commissioner Rhinelander Waldo — crusty, rotund, with a curly moustache. Pat O'Brien is briefly seen as a lawyer, Donald O'Connor is a dance instructor, while Norman Mailer lends his charisma to Stanford White, extravagantly murdered in Madison Square Gardens.

But these gambits are used half-heartedly, and the acting strengths certainly lie elsewhere. Elizabeth McGovern, a young performer briefly seen in *Ordinary People*, makes a dazzling, comic Evelyn Nesbit. James Olson's Father is also notable, a decent man struggling to be good, liberal and a good middle-class American; Brad Dourif impresses as the restless Younger Brother, who ends up a masked member of Coalhouse's gang.

Forman has taken typical care over the performances, and one can link *Ragtime* to his previous work in larger ways. It shares with *Hair* an uncomplicated love of America, from the immigrant jungle of Hester Street to the expensive country landscapes. The treatment of Coalhouse's fight against white bigotry and supremacy also connects with the battles for the individual in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. But *Ragtime* also takes Forman into new and ominous territory. Czech films like *A Blonde in Love* and his first American venture, *Taking Off*, gloried in a flexible shooting style, able to capture human quirks and multiple ironies. Except for a few reaction shots of yawning children, *Ragtime* is filmed with anonymous, big-budget skill; there is no room for idiosyncracy or caprice.

Priest of Love, Christopher Miles's version of Harry T. Moore's D. H. Lawrence biography, is another film with a long history. Rights from the author's estate had to be cleared; permission was needed to present characters still living; locations in Mexico, Nottingham, Italy and Cornwall had to be sought out. The hopes and plans took up a decade, and it would be pleasant to report that everything had been worthwhile. But *Priest of Love* is irretrievably crippled by a string of misguided assumptions.

Firstly, the film assumes that the authentic Lawrence can be magically recreated by taking the camera and characters on endless trips to authentic locations. Miles is not an incisive director, and the trips rapidly assume the style of a vapid literary travelogue. Secondly, Alan Plater's script assumes that the only Lawrence who could interest audiences is the scandalous, fiery author of novels that were variously burnt, seized and spattered with words not allowable in the House of Commons.

A further fallacy hovers over the production: the belief that an important British film of quality is best produced by basing the film on quality literary material. With Dickens and David Lean the strategy worked, for the director's talent was equal to his ambitions. But Christopher Miles's obsession with Lawrence (he also filmed the short story *The Virgin and the Gypsy* in 1970) has so far enriched neither literature nor cinema. Ian McKellen gives an adequate impersonation of Lawrence; Janet Suzman makes a firmer impression as his German wife Frieda. Among the supporting players, Ava Gardner adds characteristic warmth to her part as the patroness Mabel Dodge Luhan.

After the Lawrence biography, one withdraws with relief to cinema without pretensions. Winter of Our Dreams is an Australian film with an acute eye for the social scene, even though the writer-director, John Duigan, seems unable, or unwilling, to take his observations very far. The film simply looks at two worlds, rubbing against each other: the sleazy drop-out world of prostitute Lou, and the up-market liberalism of Rob, a former student activist who runs a bookshop and an open marriage.

Geoff Brown

Opera

Oberto

Collegiate Theatre

On Wednesday evening London's University College Opera completed an achievement with their production of Verdi's first opera, *Oberto, Conte di San Bonifacio*. It was the British première of the piece, the only one of Verdi's 28 operas that had not been staged here.

During the last 20 years or so, I have seen them all myself: I had to go to Wales for *The Battle of Legnano*, to Oxford for *Joan of Arc*, to Cambridge for *Stiffelio*, but most of them were put on in London by enterprising independent companies, usually in the borough of Camden, as is the case with *Oberto* this week. Camden deserves some sort of medal for the house-room it has given to unfamiliar Verdi operas.

It is not that Verdi was unpopular here in his lifetime. His operas, from *Nabucco* onwards, were often produced in London, but selectively. *I masnadieri* was composed for Covent Garden, but *Simon Boccanegra*, nowadays acknowledged a masterpiece, only had its British première in 1948 by Sadler's Wells Opera. *Oberto* can be seen in Gordon Square tonight and tomorrow only.

While British Verdians were already investigating such niceties as the first versions of *Macbeth* and *The Force of Destiny*, *Oberto* was still waiting. Books on Verdi are discouraging about the libretto, and even Julian Budden, in his comprehensive three-volume vade mecum, has to admit that the music is not much to write home about, let alone the story.

Verdi revised *Oberto* a bit, for its first few productions in Italy, then forgot it, and must be whizzing in his grave at the thought of a new production in 1982. The plot, even as revised for Verdi, is weakly constructed, the set numbers are half-motivated, the diction puerile, the ending miserably unsatisfactory.

The principal characters, more or less derived from Italian medieval history, are mere cardboard: Oberto, intent on revenge for his daughter's abduction, she only concerned to recover the love of the libertine in question, his new affianced who is so high-minded as to dismiss him and swear eternal friendship with her rival (a luscious Bellinian duet in parallel thirds); lastly the rake himself, heroic tenor and tenor cypher.

Yet put them on the stage with Verdi's prentice music, and the spell, long declared non-existent, actually begins to work. Christopher Fifield, the conductor, found beauty and influence in Verdi's orchestral music, shape and power in the invention.

UCL Opera field a good cast, mostly from Glyndebourne tours. Helen Walker's passionate Leonora, Mary King's rich-toned Cuniza, Anthony Roden's robust, incisive Riccardo, and Norman Welsby's expressive Oberto made the most of their unpromising roles. The choral singing sounded keen on vitality, but agreeable. Simple stage designs looked well, and Stephen Lawless's production made sense.

William Mann

Commedia

Sadler's Wells

Opera may be an irrational art but at least for as long as one is in the theatre its reality has to be absolute and unquestionable. Edward Cowie's *Commedia*, which had its British première on Wednesday night from the New Opera Company, proposes irrationality of a different kind. There is no searing fusion of character, situation and music, no creation of a self-sufficient world. There is no illusion, only allusion, multiplied to a point where substance thins to nothingness and even many colours of a dazzling score fade into a haze.

The opera tells a great many stories, none of them convincing. For instance, we are invited to believe that all that happens is at the behest of Brighella, that he is the magus of these charades, and yet it is perfectly clear in this under-cooked production that the prompter is really in charge of the show.

Brighella is as shadowy as the rest of the people on stage and, although Malcolm Rivers sings the part with authority in his tone, his uncertainty about the rhythms betrays a deeper doubt about his function and betrays, too, a complexity in Cowie's vocal writing that works against dramatic effectiveness.

And what are we to make of the others, of Harlequin and his Colombine, of the buffoon Pantalone and the crazy Doctor, of the desiccated, embittered Countess? These are, of course, the stock figures of the *commedia dell'arte*, and the librettist David Starsmeare gives the composer what he wants by putting them through their paces, drawing on original scripts. But we are asked to see the players also as nature children, as so many Papagenos and Papagenas, so that a quick, urban, popular entertainment is diluted in green acres of timeless pastoral.

Such a mix would stretch the integrating genius of a Mozart, or test Richard Strauss's ability to confront two alien theatrical traditions. Cowie is simply content to let it all happen. Too often he has his scenes of comedy, trial and farce unfold relaxedly against a dazed orchestral wash bejewelled with bird songs from solo woodwinds, high violins, trumpet or tuned percussion. These, I have no doubt, sound rapturous if heard alone, but through two long acts one tires of so much prettiness, so much rootless and artificial contrivance on stage.

David Freeman's production strives to make the whole thing cohere by placing it in a psychedelic glen. The designer, Aldous Evejewelled, provides a vibrant, abstract backdrop in the manner of Boccioni, with colours of apple green, yellow and orange echoed in the primitive tatters of costumes. The opera most nearly comes alive when the singing stops and the small chorus engages in the physical exertions and athletic mimes typical of Mr Freeman's work.

Among the cast, Fiona Kimm is horribly magnificent as the Countess, a woman burnt hard, and the two old men, Paul Hudson and John Winfield, try hard to wrest some comic moments from a work not strong on timing. Teresa Cahill sings ravishingly as Colombine and Nigel Robson does his best with the empty role of Harlequin. James Lockhart, conducting a gorgeous orchestral tapestry, undoubtedly has the most rewarding job of the evening.

Paul Griffiths

Concert

The Apostles

Festival Hall/Radio 3

For the second night in succession at the Festival Hall, an important work of Elgar had a Soviet conductor to present it. Gennadi Rozhdestvensky addressed himself on Wednesday to *The Apostles*, the largest of Elgar's achievements in scale and subject matter, for the BBC Symphony Orchestra's concert which was also broadcast on Radio 3.

I took the opportunity to hear the first part in the hall and the second over the radio, not for the first time wondering how a different balance can affect a listener's impressions, especially where large forces are involved.

It is true that, from the moment of Peter's betrayal of Jesus near the start of the oratorio's second part, Elgar's own musical imagination takes wing in a way that seldom characterizes the earlier passages, where the give and take of individual voices, as in the section "by the wayside", add up to little more than the sum of their parts in musical terms.

Mr Rozhdestvensky made, I thought, a cautious start to the oratorio. At first the combined voices of the BBC Singers and Chorus and the Goldsmiths Choral Union seemed less than convinced that the spirit of the Lord was indeed upon them, as the opening chorus would have it, although they acclaimed the dawn and sang the morning psalm with suitable fervour. How sad that Elgar's interest in oriental embellishment could not be indulged with the shofar he wanted here instead of a trumpet.

Might he perhaps have written an opera, had he wished? John Shirley-Quirk would have us believe so, as Peter's denials came strongly through the texture over the air, and no less vivid was Malcolm King's singing of the remorse of Judas.

This performance was one that generated no great strength of spirit from within, but which was usually evocative in a pictorial sense, as in the Golgotha scene of Mary (Felicity Lott) and John (Kenneth Woollam), and the angelic chorus at the Holy Sepulchre. Alfreda Hodgson sang a cool Magdalene and David Wilson-Johnson a dignified Jesus.

Noël Goodwin

Stock Exchange Prices

Late rally in gilts

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Feb 15. Dealings End Feb 26. § Contango Day, Mar 1. Settlement Day, Mar 8.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days



BRITISH FUNDS

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

DOLLAR STOCKS

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A — B

C — E

F — H

I — L

M — N

High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
90	18	McInerney Prop	28	-1	[illegible]	7.9	6.5
53	25	Mackay H.	46	..	[illegible]	11.3	16.8
127	85	McKechnie Bros	104	..	10.[illegible]	10.0	8.4
85	56	Macpherson D.	80	• ..	[illegible]	7.5	10.7
174	108	Magnet & S'thns	152	+4	7.1	4.7	10.8
217	97	Man Agcy Music	114	..	12.5	11.0	9.7
203	100	Man Ship Canal	101	..	..	..	..
35	21	Mang Bronze	31	..	3.1	10.0	..
154	72	Marchwiel	134	-1	8.6	6.4	..
145	106	Marks & Spencer	140	+1	[illegible]	4.1	19.[illegible]
51	33½	Marley Ltd	44	• ..	[illegible]	7.3	12.3
37	14½	Marling Ind	35	..	[illegible]	4.0	24.5
50	22	Marshall T Lox	48	..	4.0	8.3	4.3
48	21	Do A	46	..	4.0	8.6	4.1
325	178	Martin News	325	+5	13.9	4.3	7.0
270	209	Martonair	218	..	10.[illegible]	5.0	12.7
74	48	Medminster	68	..	5.3	7.8	7.3
250	140	Menzies J.	243	..	5.[illegible]	2.3	12.1
224	128	Metal Box	182	..	16.[illegible]	9.1	16.0
52¾	37¼	Metalrax	45	+1	3.1	6.9	7.3
25	12	Mettoy	13	..	0.[illegible]	1.1	..

O — S

High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
35	9	Stone Platt	17	+1	..	..	..
33	16	Streeters	23	..	..	..	8.8
66	46	Strong & Fisher	56	+3	7.1	12.8	..
110	79	Sunlight Serv	104	+1	3.6	3.8	8.5
52	37	Sutcliffe S'man	41	..	..	..	..
188	86½	Swire Pacific 'A'	93½	+2½	..	..	..
195	140	Syltone	195	..	12.9	6.6	21.6

T — Z

High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
26	15	TACE	25	+2	..	..	7.5
121	85	TSL Therm Synd	92	• ..	10.0b	10.9	11.4
25⅛	10[illegible]	Takeda BDR	£22[illegible]	+[illegible]	17.6	0.8	34.8
6½	2½	Talbex Grp	4½	..	..	..	..
440	316	Tarmac Ltd	422	..	23.3	5.5	7.2
220	128	Tate & Lyle	198	-2	16.4	8.3	4.9
607	441	Taylor Woodrow	580	..	19.0	3.3	10.3
400	250	Telephone Rent	340	..	14.6	4.3	16.9
71	48½	Tesco	54½	-½	3.8	7.0	5.8

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

SHIPPING

MINES

OIL

PROPERTY

RUBBER

TEA

High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]	[illegible]	McLeod Russel	370	-3	11.8	3.2	..
153	132	Do 8.4% Cnv Pf	141	..	12.0	8.5	..
295	255	Moran	268	..	7.1	2.5	..
128	93	Surmah Valley	126	..	1.4	1.1	..

MISCELLANEOUS

High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
46	27½	Calcutta Elec	41	• ..	8.8	21.4	..
34½	29	Essex Wtr 3.5%	£31	• ..	500	16.1	..
34	20	Gt Nthn Tele	£32½	..	150	4.6	12.3
265	150	Imp Cont Gas	206	..	11.9	5.8	13.1
158	93	Milford Docks	156	..	0.7	0.5	..
193	122	Nesco Inv	135	..	10.0	7.4	..
35	28½	Sunderlnd Wtr	£33	..	500	15.2	..

• Ex dividend. a Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected price. e Interim payment passed. f Price at suspension. g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. h Bid for company. k Pre-merger figures. n Forecast earnings. p Ex capital distribution. r Ex rights. s Ex scrip or share split. t Tax free. y Price adjusted for late dealings. .. No significant data.

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing Price
A and G Sec Elect 5p Ord (80a)	82
Baillie Gifford Japan Trust 25p Ord (100)	95
City Site 25p Ord (35a)	39
Computer and Systems Eng 20p Ord (225)	246
Cussins Property Group 20p Ord (52)	54
Equipu 10p Ord (80a)	88
Exchequer 13¾% 'A' 1987 (i)	£20¾
Good Relations Group 10p Ord (81a)	74
Hardanger Properties 10p Ord (100a)	99+2
Hayters £1 Ord (150a)	160
Moray Firth Exp	105
Newmarket Co (1981) Ltd $0.05 (£3.05)	270+2
Nimslo Int 0.20 Ord ($4.25a)	205+10
Owners Abroad 10p Ord (10a)	21½+¼
Peek Holdings 7p Ord	17½
Saxon Oil 30p Ord (12½p paid)	48-2
Speyhawk 10p Ord (115)	131
Television South West 5p Ord	15+½
Treasury 3% 1987	£84⅝
Treasury 2½% Index Linked 2011 (†I)	£35⅞+⅛

RIGHTS ISSUES	Latest date of renun	
Davy Corp (140)	Mar 12	15pr
Lovell Y. J. (220)	Mar 26	42 prem
Smith St. Aubyn (25)	Mar 19	14 prem

Issue price in parentheses. * Ex dividend. † Issued by tender. ‡ Nil paid a unlisted securities market. b. £10 paid. f fully paid g £40 paid. h £20 paid. i £35 paid. j £20 paid. k Issued in units of sixteen shares and £5 nominal loan stock at £9 per unit.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range) February 18	Market rates (close) February 18	1 month	3 months
New York	$1 8390-1.8530	$1.8510-1.8530	0.22-0.32c disc	0 76-0.86c disc
Montreal	$2.2375-2.2490	$2.2470-2.2490	par-10c disc	0 45-0.60c disc
Amsterdam	4 80-4 83fl	4.80½-4.81½fl	1⅞-1⅜c prem	5⅛-4⅝c prem
Brussels	74.75-75.15f	75.05-75.15f	15-35c disc	63-83c disc
Copenhagen	14.38-14 42k	14.41-14.42k	20 prem-85ore disc	475-615ore disc
Dublin	1.2450-1.2510p	1.2455-1.2475p	30-45p disc	110-135p disc
Frankfurt	4.38-4.41m	4.38-4.39m	1⅝-1⅛pf prem	4⅞-4⅜pf prem
Lisbon	126.75-127.75e	127 40-127.70e	145-160c disc	130-405c disc
Madrid	186.25-187.75p	187.55-187.75p	10 prem-15c disc	55-85c disc
Milan	2341-2354lr	2352-2354lr	11-14lr disc	39-42lr disc
Oslo	10.99-11.07k	11.06-11.07k	225-140ore prem	170-80ore prem
Paris	11.14-11.18f	11.14½-11.15½f	½ prem-¼c disc	3¼-3¾c disc
Stockholm	10.63-10.71k	10.70-10.71k	par-60ore disc	250-190ore prem
Tokyo	433-442y	435-436y	295-280y prem	875-840y prem
Vienna	30.75-31.05sch	31 00-31.05sch	16-12gro prem	43-35gro prem
Zurich	3.49-3.52f	3.50½-3.51½f	1⅞-1⅜c prem	5⅛-3⅞c prem

Effective exchange rate compared to 1975, was 91.7 unchanged

Money Market Rates

Clearing Banks Base Rate 14%

Discount Mkt Loans %
Overnight: High 14 Low 14

Week Fixed: 14

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	13[illegible]	2 months	13[illegible]
3 months	13[illegible]	3 months	13[illegible]

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) Trades (Dis%)

1 month	13[illegible]-13[illegible]	1 month	14⅞
2 months	13[illegible]-13¾	2 months	14¾
3 months	13[illegible]-13¾	3 months	14⅝
6 months	13[illegible]-13[illegible]	6 months	14[illegible]

Local Authority Bonds

1 month	15-14¾	7 months	14⅞-14¾
2 months	14⅞-14¾	8 months	14⅞-14¾
3 months	14⅞-14¾	9 months	14⅞-14¾
4 months	14¾-14½	10 months	14⅞-14¾
5 months	14⅞-14¾	11 months	14⅞-14¾
6 months	14⅞-14¾	12 months	14⅝-14¾

Secondary Mkt. £CD Rates (%)

1 month	14[illegible]-14[illegible]	6 months	14½-14¾
3 months	14½-14¾	12 months	14½-14¾

Local Authority Market (%)

2 days	14¾-14½	3 months	14[illegible]
7 days	14¾-14½	6 months	14[illegible]
1 month	14[illegible]	1 year	14½-14¾

Interbank Market (%)
Overnight: Open 14½-14¾ Close 15

1 week	14½-14¾	6 months	14[illegible]-14¾
1 month	14¾-14[illegible]	9 months	14[illegible]-14¾
3 months	14[illegible]-14¾	12 months	14[illegible]-14¾

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)

3 months	15[illegible]-15⅛	6 months	15[illegible]-15⅛

Finance House Base Rate 15½%

Other Markets

Australia	1.7020-1 7170
Bahrein	0.6930-0 6960
Finland	8.3250-8.3650
Greece	112.25-114.25
Hongkong	10.8640-10.9040
Iran	n.a.
Kuwait	0 5240-0.5270
Malaysia	4.2725-4.3025
Mexico	72.50-74.00
New Zealand	2 3240-2.3440
Saudi Arabia	6.2890-6 3190
Singapore	3.8900-3.9200
South Africa	1 8055-1.8205

Dollar Spot Rates

* Ireland	1.4770-1.4800
+ Canada	1.2160-1.2162
Netherlands	2 6050-2.6100
Belgium	40.51-40.56
Denmark	7.7850-7.7950
West Germany	2.3760-2.3775
Portugal	68.85-69.00
Spain	101.20-101.40
Italy	1269.50-1271 00
Norway	5.9760-5.9810
France	6.0450-6.0550
Sweden	5.7840-5.7890
Japan	236.35-236.55
Austria	16.67-16.69
Switzerland	1.8985-1.9005

* Ireland quoted in US currency.
+ Canada $1 : US $.8220-.8222

Euro-$ Deposits

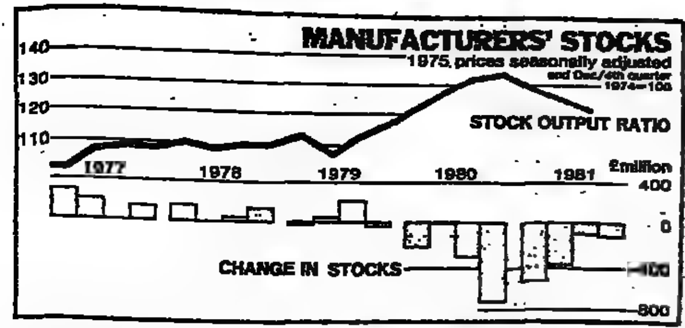
(%) calls. 15-16; seven days, 15[illegible]-15[illegible]; one month, 16-16¼; three months, 16-16¼; six months, 16[illegible]-16[illegible].

Gold

Gold fixed: am. $367 50 (an ounce); pm. $369.25 close, $369.75.
Krugerrand (per coin): $379-381 (£205.50-206.50).
Sovereigns (new): $90.25-91.25 (£49-49.50).

BUSINESS NEWS

Destocking slows



Manufacturing industry cut back its total stocks more in the fourth quarter of last year than in the late summer, but the figures suggest that the worst of destocking is over. There was an increase in work in progress but a drop in raw materials and fuel held. Finished stocks also went down. The ratio between finished stocks and total output has now returned to more normal levels after the worst of the recession.

Insider dealing alleged

The Department of Trade is prosecuting an employee of merchant bankers Hill Samuel and her husband under the insider dealing sections of the 1980 Companies Act. Mrs Joyce Titheridge, of Sidcup, Kent, is alleged to have procured her husband, Mr John William Titheridge, to deal in the shares of Joseph Stocks & Sons. Mr Titheridge is charged with dealing in the share of stocks and procuring another to deal in the securities. This is the first insider dealings case in England and the second in Britain.

Building society inquiry

The Blyth & Morpeth District Permanent Benefit Building Society which has one office in Blyth Northumberland is being investigated by the Registrar of Friendly Societies over discrepancies in its annual accounts. Mr Ron Devlin, the assistant registrar, said yesterday," Steps have been taken to secure the safety of investors. "The Northern Rock building society is managing affairs of the £1½m Blyth & Morpeth while its future is decided. The amount in question is thought to be small about £16,000. The society's reserves are £130,000.

SE rule book hearing delayed

The Office of Fair Trading has asked for a further six-month extension to prepare its answer to the Stock Exchange's defence of its rule book. The exchange is being taken to the Restrictive Practices Court because its rules that jobbers may act only as principals and brokers as agents are alleged to represent a restrictive practice.

Morecambe gas

Plans for the development of British Gas Morecambe Bay field, 25 miles off the Lancashire coast, were approved yesterday by the Department of Energy. The £1,000m development will involve about six production platforms and a mobile jack-up drilling rig which will drill the first "slanted" wells in United Kingdom waters.

MARKET SUMMARY

Late dash for Amersham

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 562.2, up 1.4.
FT Gilts 65.55, up 0.21.
FT All-Share 325.09, up 0.12.
Bargains 17,986.

There was standing room only in Throgmorton Avenue yesterday as investors made a last-minute dash to lodge their applications for shares in Amersham International.

Pundits estimated that the offer for £65m worth of shares would be oversubscribed 20 times with an estimated £1,300m offered by investors.

As a result business in the remainder of the equity market remained low key with prices drifting on lack of interest. A rally on Wall Street early on provided some comfort with the FT Index closing 1.4 down at 562.2, after being 3.3 down at 3pm.

Heavy selling of several blue chips did little to help matters Blue Circle 14p to 50p. Brokers Scrimgeour Kemp Gee are recommending investors to sell and have downgraded profits by about £5m after the devaluation of the Chilean peso. Profits from Chile last year were about £17m.

Turner & Newall, down 8p at 99p, was another weak market as brokers Hoare Govett downgraded profits from £19m to £16m against £13m last time. Hoare have based their assessment on recent poor figures from Philip A Hunt Corp, the group's US subsidiary, and the latest turn of events in Zimbabwe.

Chubb was steady at 113p as a line of 200,000 shares went through the market. Takeover favourite Booker McConnell rose 2p to 73p amid high turnover. A put-through was completed in 1.3m shares with another buyer picking up 1.5m later in the day.

Unilever has been tipped as the most likely predator.

Imperial Group jumped 2½ to 84p in two-way trade. Observers believe the group may be planning a few more sell-offs to raise £100m in cash for further expansion.

Chloride closed 2p dearer at 37p on gossip it had been awarded a contract to supply car batteries to BL. The present supplier Lucas, fell 3p to 209p.

Eagle Star continued to attract bid speculation after announcing it had increased its stake in the French insurance group L'Independence to 70 per cent. The shares rose 12p to 378p with Allianz still holding 29 per cent.

Laganvale Estates fell 5½p to 27½p after refusing to recommend the proposed merger with Sturla Holdings. Sturla has now decided to have a rights issue instead. The price slipped 2p to 15p.

First half profits at Dobson Park are likely to prove disappointing, according to Mr James Francis, chairman, and he is unable to forecast a general improvement for the full year. The shares shed 8½p to 77p.

Meanwhile, Braby Leslie rose 3p to 49p after disclosing that CHI Securities had raised its stake to 6.24 per cent.

There were red faces at the Stock Exchange over allowing a London quote for Reynolds Divesified. Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the exchange, said: "We made a mistake. I think one should be prepared to admit it. We did not realize that Reynolds was not listed anywhere else, but we did not find out until recently."

The renewed strength of the United States bond market helped gilts to stage a late rally with rises of up to £¾ by the close. Equity turnover on February 17 was £109.410m (14,158 bargains).

Michael Clark

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Average 7,683.76 up 39.7
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,257.94 up 24.48

CURRENCIES

● Lower Eurodollar deposit rates, an easier Fed Funds rate and unfounded rumours that President Reagan was planning defence cuts weakened the dollar.

LONDON CLOSE

STERLING
$ 1.8520 up 165 points
Index 91.7 unchanged
DM 4.3850
Fr.F 11.1500
Yen 435.50
DOLLAR
Index 112.7 down 0.3
DM 2.3767 down 215 pts
GOLD
$ 369.75 down $3.25

TODAY

Gross domestic product, 4th quarter prelim.
Company results: Half-yearly — Lister and Co, Telefusion, Throgmorton Secured Growth. Finals — Kennedy Brookes, Lloyds Bank, F Miller (Textile), Phoenix Mining and Finance, Scottish United Investors, Tace, Walthams.

COMMODITIES

● The afternoon tin market featured heavy borrowing of cash metal for one day at the £120 limit premium set by the LME committee on short positions maturing, largely as a result of heavy forward selling to the market's main buyer during late November.

One party in particular was involved in about half the 2,000 tonnes borrowed, which inturn was lent by the operator responsible for boosting prices by over £2,000 since last July.

Three months metal fluctuated narrowly to finish £10 higher at £7,880.

The morning market sawthe backwardation for cash to three months metal narrowing slightly to £995. Cash metal traded from £8,930 down to £8,880 in the rings while three monthgs fell to £7,830 under before short covering reversed the trend to £7,890 on the kerb.

MONEY MARKETS

The Bank provided a near-record £1,114m assistance, including £398m lent direct to the discount houses at 14 per cent and The Amersham pay-over accounted for £800m of the estimated £1,050m shortage.

Domestic Rates:
Base rates 14%.
3-month interbank 14¹¹⁄₁₆-14⅝
Euro-Currency rates
3month dollar 16-16¼
3month DM 10⁵⁄₁₆-10³⁄₁₆
3 months Fr.F. 16⁷⁄₁₆-16³⁄₁₆

Nissan delays decision on UK car plant

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Nissan of Japan will probably not now make a decision about its proposed United Kingdom car manufacturing plant until the late spring.

This further display of indecision by the Japanese company, which makes Datsun cars, came as a high-level team of executives led by Mr Masataka Okuma, Nissan's executive vice president, discussed the project with Department of Industry officials in Whitehall yesterday.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, was involved in the talks which centred on the amount of Government aid that might be available for the new operation and on the level of local content of Nissan's British-made cars.

Mr Okuma's team was told that while the Government welcomed the Nissan project, it would not be accepted by ministers at any price.

Nissan originally spoke of a United Kingdom investment of about £300m, but this has since been revised substantially after a reappraisal of model plans. The company is now believed to be considering building more than one model at its British factory, with a consequent increase in engine output.

Regional development grants and selective financial assistance could cover up to half of the proposed investment but, in return, the Government is seeking firm commitments from the Japanese on the level and definition of locally-made parts and components to be used in the cars.

Mr Jenkin and his colleagues have faced pressure on two fronts on the local content issue. At home, a campaign led by Ford, itself a leading importer of cars, has urged the Government to impose strict conditions on Nissan. It insists that during the start-up phase the United Kingdom-made Datsuns should have at least 60 per cent local — meaning European — content.

The European Commission, which has been subject to intense lobbying from the French motor industry, has applied similar pressure. The French fear that in its desire to create employment in depressed areas, the British government will accept what could be an assembly operation for Japanese-produced parts and allow greater Japanese penetration of the European car market.

This is proving to be a big sticking point in the negotiations, with the Japanbese this week claiming that their chances of making a profit might rest on starting the UK operation with less than 60 per cent local content.

When Nissan first accounced its intentions in January last year, it hoped to make a decision by the summer. This was put off until the autumn and then agn until early this year, largely because of doubts over profitability.

Ministers still believe, however, that Nissan is keen to come to Britain rather than any other European country. They are anxious to achieve clarification of the component issue and to be ready to meet the inevitable outbursts from the development area that Nissan rejects.

'Mass hysteria' at Amersham issue

By Our Financial Staff

New issue time in the City saw the nation's most optimistic investors scramble to meet yesterday's deadline for shares in the latest high technology offering from the Government: Amersham International.

Amersham makes radioactive isotopes for medicine and industry.

But the fact that they probably could not understand that part of the prospectus did not stop an estimated 200,000 subscribers from proferring over £1,000m for just 50 million shares at 142p each.

A hardened merchant banker despairingly dismissed the stampede as "mass hysteria".

In the wake of British Aerospace (3½ times oversubscribed), Cable & Wireless (5½ times oversubscribed), and the private sector money broker Exco (75 times oversubscribed), the Amersham rush of 20 times is barely surprising.

But it has raised the same questions — particularly sensitive in the case of political sale — about whether this is the best way to go public.

It is argued by merchant banks and stock brokers that stags have made little or no profit from recent heavily oversubscribed issues.

An investor who is allocated only 5 per cent of the shares for which he has applied, and may have to wait up to a week for the share ot be quoted, incurs heavy interest charges in the meantime.

The alternative of inviting investors to tender for shares in considered less preferable — if more decorous — on two grounds.

Fewer small investors are likely to apply or succeed, and it has never tried for so large an offering as Amersham's £65m. The lukewarm response to Habitat's £9.5m tender offer is cited in evidence.

But it is also admitted that the Government might gain more from a tender. Amersham is expected to net the Government £61m.

A public offering must be pitched a little below the expected trading price to attract subscriptions. This is of more obvious benefit to banks, stockbrokers, and jobbers than to the taxpayer from whom the Government is lifting an alleged burden.

One of the side effects of the huge over-subscription for Amersham was to create an enormous shortage of liquidity in the banking sector. The Bank of England put the total shortage on the day at £1,050m, of which about £800m was Amersham cheques that have gone through the town clearing system.

Business Editor, page 17

Chocks away for the Fieldmaster

A new British aircraft, the NDN Fieldmaster, was unveiled at Farnborough yesterday. It is the Western world's largest and most efficient agricultural aircraft, and the first plane to be designed in Britain for crop-spraying since the 1950s. The Fieldmaster has been developed by NDN Aircraft, the Isle of wight company founded by Mr Desmond Norman with financial support from the British Technology Group. Mr Norman is now seeking funds from the Government and private investors to start production of the Fieldmaster. Several potential sites are being considered, in Britain and overseas.

Backing for 2½ year wage freeze

From Christopher Thomas, New York, Feb 18

Union leaders at the Ford Motor Company in Chicago today approved a wage and benefit agreement under which employees would accept a 2½ year wage freeze in return for job security.

Local leaders of the United Auto Workers voted 132 to 12 in favour of the deal. The next step to final ratification is a ballot of 150,000 union members to be completed by February 28.

The deal, which both the union and company negotiators called historic, aims to help Ford out of its financial plight after a three year sales slump.

Some workers claim that too much has been given away in return for vague guarantees on job security. But with a third of the company's 106,000 production workers laid off, there are few signs of militancy.

The proposed agreement would eliminate the annual 3 per cent salary increase and reduce holidays. For nine months it would also freeze arrangements for automatic pay adjustments based on increases in the consumer price index.

The unions apparently felt that the company's position was so weak that substantial concessions were inevitable. The company has made cumulative losses of $2,500m (£1.358m) in the past two years. The new two-year deal is due to begin in September.

The United Auto Workers faces a similar crisis at General Motors.

US to proceed with steel pricing cases

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Feb 18

The United States International Trade Commission voted today to go ahead with 38 of 92 unfair pricing cases filed against European steelmakers in nine countries. Six of the cases are against Britain.

In a preliminary ruling, which represents a big setback to European steel companies, the ITC ruled there is enough evidence of injury to continue 38 of the investigations but not in 54 additional complaints filed by United States companies.

The continued cases cover altogether about two thirds of the total steel import volume flowing into the United States from European countries.

Mr Bill Arlberger, chairman of the ITC, said it is significant that the commission agreed to go ahead with a greater number of the anti-dumping and unfair pricing cases than it did in May 1980, when only 29 cases were continued.

Mr Arlberger said the ruling meant the commission believes there are enough signs of injury to United States producers to "warrant further investigation". The ruling should by no means be read as a signal that the ITC intends to make a final unfavourable determination against all the companies named in the unfair price complaints.

In the plate and structural categories, six complaints are against United Kingdom companies and were carried forward. In the four main categories, Belgium, France, West Germany, and Italy are involved.

Key to the final outcome of the cases is the ability of the United States companies to prove they have been injured significantly by low-cost European steel dumped on United States markets.

In determining what constitutes injury, Mr Arlberger said in an interview that the ITC will look for signs of "illhealth" in United States industry in areas such as unemployment, profitability, investment and new plant expenditures and product shipments.

Increasingly, in recent weeks, the European Community and some United States steel companies have indicated their willingness to negotiate a diplomatic settlement rather than let these steel cases continue through the adjudication process, possibly resulting in the unacceptable duties and the collapse of some European producers.

Money supply up 1.7 pc

By Our Economics Staff

The rundown of stocks, the biggest cause of recession over the past two years, almost came to an end in the fourth quarter of last year. At the same time, industry invested more in the fourth time it had boosted investment for nearly two years.

The figures show that industry continued to run down its stocks late last year but that retailers, either by design or because they over-ordered, increased their stocks substantially.

At the same time as these figures pointing to an end to stock induced recession were being published by the Government, the Bank of England issued new figures showing that bank lending stayed high in January, pushing up the money supply by 1.7 per cent because of bank lending of £1680m.

The January rise in sterling M3 means that the aggregate has grown at an annualized rate of 15¾ per cent since last February, the base month for the present target period.

Although this means that the Government is going to finish its financial year to April with sterling M3 growth well above its original 6-10 per cent target, it is probably hoping for appreciably better figures for the banking month to mid February. These figures should be helped by heavy flows of deferred tax payments to the Exchequer in the first half of the banking month.

M1, the narrow measure of money, rose by 1.8 per cent in January, an annualized rate of growth of 10 per cent since last February. PSL2, the broad measure of private sector liquidity, expanded by 1.1 per cent giving an annualized rate growth over the last 11 months of 12½ per cent.

There was a sharp fall, of £920m, in the United Kingdom residents' holdings of foreign currency deposits. Much of this probably reflected the conversion of these holdings into sterling to meet tax payments.

Heron raises offer for ACC to £49m

By Philip Robinson

Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron Corporation yesterday raised the stakes in the bitter battle with Mr Robert Holmes à Court over Associated Communications Corporation with a new offer that values the company at more than £49m.

Heron's second offer is raised 5p to 90p for the non-voting shares and by 20p to 360p for the voting stock, 66 per cent of which is promised to Mr Holmes à Court at 320p.

There are now three offers for the asset-rich empire covering entertainments to property. The first is from Mr Holmes à Court worth 66p for the non voting and 320p for the voting. The second and concurrent bid announced last weekend, is also from Mr Holmes à Court and offers a conditional 85p for the non voting shares and 34p for the voting shares — which matched Mr Ronson's first offer — and the new higher price from Mr Ronson announced yesterday lunchtime.

As the offer was made, Heron was in the Appeal Court on the fourth day of its attempts to block the transfer of shares owned by ACC directors to Mr Holmes à Court, which will give him control.

It emerged in court that of the 10 ACC directors, Lord Matthews and Sir Leo Pliatsky had not signed the recent undertakings of support for Mr Holmes à Court's original bid, but had separately confirmed the agreement to sell him their shares.

☐ The Stock Exchange is conducting a full investigation into Euroflame Holdings, the Unlisted Securities Market stock which it suspended on Monday pending clarification of the company's position.

Euroflame was brought to market by the small issuing house Securities, Tring Hall last March forcasting profits of £335,000. On New Year's Eve it announced it would make a substantial loss, not pay a dividend and had ordered an accountants' report into the company's finances.

TELECOM 'AHEAD OF MERCURY'

British Telecom intends to have its new high-speed inter-city telecommunications links in operation at least six months before the Mercury consortium completes its planned 800 mile fibre optic cabling network. The Telecom plan is based on one which has been employed in London for a year, called the London Overlay Network which has about 25 subscribers. The first link outside the capital will be with Birmingham in June. The Mercury is expected to revise its plans and possibly bring its schedule forward.

European ships at risk

North European shipping fleets will be reduced still farther as owners succumb to growing competition from low cost companies in the Far East.

High manning costs have become crucial for European shipowners. For some merchant ships, especially bulk carriers, crewing costs are now three times higher than for similar ships operated by companies in the Far East and India.

A report published yesterday by H. P. Drewry, the shipping consultants, said: "As the current shipping recession deepens during 1982 more and more North European shipping companies will lose money, will be unable to compete under their own flag with their own nationals as crew."

High crew costs, tax and administrative costs have led to ships operating under some European flags to become as expensive as American-operated vessels.

European bulk carrier operators are attempting to trim their costs either by reducing crew levels or by "reflagging" — transferring registry of their vessels to countries with lower costs.

Clearers to pay £300,000 levy

Protection for bank deposits

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

A fund to protect depositors in the event of a banking crash is to be set up. Mr Jock Bruce Gardyne, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said in reply to a written parliamentary question yesterday that the Deposit Protection Scheme will come into force from today.

The scheme, which has met strong opposition in the past from the banks, was written into the 1979 Banking Act but implementation was delayed until the Bank of England had finished licensing banks and deposit-taking institutions as required under the Banking Act.

The fund of between £5m and £6m will protect depositors on up to 75 per cent of the first £10,000 placed with either recognised banks or licensed deposit-taking institutions.

The limit has been set to encourage individuals to be prudent in where they put their put money. Sums above £10,000 will not be covered by the scheme.

The money will be raised by a levy on banks and deposit-takers with an initial minimum of £2,500 and a maximum initial contribution of £300,000 from the big clearing banks.

The scheme will be administered by a newly-formed Deposit Protection Board which will be able to make further levies up to a maximum of £300,000 although no bank can be made to contribute more than 0.3 per cent of its deposits in total.

The big banks objected to the scheme initially because they felt they would be paying for the shortcomings of smaller banks. They also complained because the building societies, which now have a bigger share of personal sector deposits that the banks, are not covered by the Banking Act so do not have to contribute to the fund.

However the building societies told the Government last summer that they would bail out any member society which ran into trouble.

Uneasiness over gold . . . anxiety over engineering

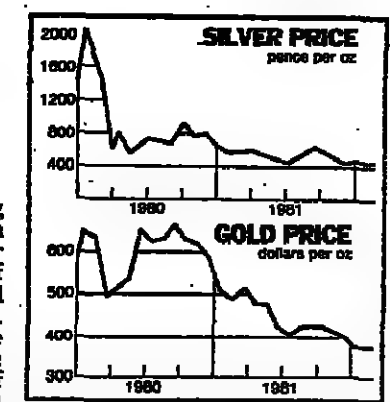
Selling by Russians hits price

A nervous gold market was asking yesterday who is going to "do a Joe Granville" on gold after prices fell heavily on reports of Russian sales, and panic small investors (Sally White writes). Technically it is possible for the chartists to see a fall back to the $250 level, although the pattern of trading at present is for small falls and then rallies.

Gold had been trading fairly happily for the last few weeks about the $370 o $380 level. Dealers have been made nervous by selling by the Singapore central bank last week, which put a lot of physical gold on the market. Then the Zurich market saw heavy sales starting around 9 o'clock yesterday morning by the Russians that dealers said continued for about 2 hours. That took price down to a low of around $366½.

Fundamentals on gold are good. Industrial demand is taking up supplies put on to the market. The latest report from J. Aron from the United States gold house, is that supplies are likely to remain tight relative to demand in 1982 as a whole.

But there has not been a



dramatic sell-off in gold. Overhanging the market is all the gold that so many rich investors in the Middle East bought after the two big rises in oil prices. Far East buyers took in the gold that was sold in panic by small investors when the price soared to $850 in January 1980. Some of these holders could soom become disenchanted, and start to sell.

Gold has come down from the high ratios is used to have agaist the oil price. After that, much more recently, it seemed to have been steadied by silver. But now silver itself has been looking weaker.

"The trouble is we are now in the hands of the chartists," Mr Julian Baring, of James Capel the stockbrokers, said. As a house the firm has been saying for some little time now that even given investors were happy with the price of gold, gold mining shares were looking too high. While he is not saying that prices will immediately fall, he would be much happier if the shares were 20 per cent or so lower.

There are a number of reasons for being nervous about the gold market. Economists and bankers are still looking for much higher interest rates in the United States, some to a level above last year's record. Investors have been switching their money into dollars and dollar instruments, hoping to benefit from the high yields and also capital gain. High interest rates in the United States usually depresses gold and other dollar dominated commodities, and restricts margin trading.

Another problem is not so much the gold that the Russians sell, but the pyschological empact of their sudden descent on the markets. Usually the Russians make their sales when the market is looking fairly resilient, but when other large physical holders are also selling, then gloom prevails.

The next chart point is a long way down, and the price has to go through the $350 and $300. A lot could happen before then. As one chartist said: "President Reagan could do a U-turn, and we would be back to low US interest rates."

Meanwhile it is not just the chartists who are watching the £350 level.

No indication of an upturn

Market analysts who are watching the mechanical engineering sector for signs of industrial recovery are becoming increasingly anxious, Drew Johnston writes.

The depressed aerospace industry has caused much concern because 25 per cent of mechanical engineering profits come from there.

Excess aircraft capacity in the civil market is matched by the downturn in the demand for military aircraft.

Similarly, the motor industry has failed to produce the revival which was expected early in the new year. Some analysts believe that the market's present caution will be relieved to some extent when this month's industrial performance figures are published.

Other analysts consider that renewed pessimism is feeding through to the market from industrial finance directors. The theory is that the rail strikes and the bad weather prevented talks between the market and industry. Now, the message reaching the market is that there is no profit increase in higher volume production levels. Profits only increase when engineering companies have trimmed their sails and streamlined the production process.

Analysts believe export markets have been holding up for the engineers, though profit margins on them are restricted.

Hawker Siddeley, which has been selling heavily to the Third World and has divested itself of its aerospace interests, is stimulating interest.

The market expects a modest profits increase from £113m to about £120m, but the shares have held up well against companies such as Dowty where the ordinary shares fell to about half their recent high. Hawker Siddeley shares have been on the slide in the last few weeks, in common with the slump in the sector, but reaction seems to have set in and the share price has been showing some good two-way trade. The share is favoured for its long-term prospects, especially in the light of poor performances in the rest of the sector.

Vickers, often regarded as in the same mould as Hawker, has an above average yield of 10.3 per cent and price earninmgs ratio of 6.5.

Anderson Strathclyde is well-regarded, but analysts are unhappy with companies such as Tube Investments, Babcock International and Lucas Industries.

John Brown has recovered from the traumas of last year, according to last month's half-year figures. Its gas turbine division is expected to contribute to good figures if its planned Russian gas pipeline project goes ahead. The dividend yield is approaching 10 per cent.

IMI cheerful prospects

Birmingham-based IMI is as good an indicator of the wealth of industrial Britain as any company. Building, aerospace, textiles, motors: there are few sectors to which IMI does not supply widgets, Sally White writes.

So far, this year, there is no pick-up to report. Heating equipment is seeing its usual cyclical demand, boosted somewhat by the very cold weather. Aerospace, on the other hand is down.

"Things are looking cheerful for us. In fact, I have not felt so cheerful for a long time. But that is because our output per man is up. We have had to make a lot of people redundant" the director, Mr Bill Brittain said. But as far as being an indicator he has to report that the econimy seems flat.

Correction

In the issue of February 11, Lord Mais was incorrectly referred to as chairman of Peachey Properties. Sir Richard Ball took over from Lord Mais last year.

INTERNATIONAL

CHINA

China has so far ordered a total of 1.01 million tonnes of rolled steel from six Japanese steel manufacturers for shipment up to end-June this year. China agreed initially to buy 700,000 tonnes for first-half year shipment in negotiations in Peking last November.

● China and Czechoslovakia have signed a 1982 trade agreement. The value of the agreement and the amount of last year's trade were not reported and there was no immediate comment from the Czechoslovakian embassy.

JAPAN

About 12 Japanese video tape recorder and tape manufacturers have agreed to unify standards of eight-hour playing cassette tapes for VHS-format video recorders.

● Toyo Kogyo said its Mazda car production in January totalled 87,459 units, down 10.9 per cent from a year earlier for the first year-to-year decline in five years.

SPAIN

Spain's olive oil exports dropped 58.49 per cent in 1981, compared with 1980. The fall has been blamed on the poisoned cooking oil scandal in Spain that has claimed 262 deaths since it was first discovered in May last year.

TURKEY

Turkey's exports rose by more than 61 per cent in 1981, the first full year of military rule. Imports rose by 19 per cent. The significant rise in exports was encouraged by tax inducements and ready markets in the Arab world

UNITED STATES

Initial claims for state unemployment insurance benefits fell to a seasonally adjusted total of 560,000 during the week of February 6 from 591,000 in the week of January 30.

INDIA

A 32-day-old strike by more than 200,000 textile workers in Bombay is now threatening to disrupt India's textile exports. The stoppage is caused by a wage dispute.

AUSTRALIA

The price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry increased by 6.8 per cent in the 12 months to December 1981, down from 11.8 per cent in the preceding year.

HALLIDAY SIMPSON

Exchange inquiry continues

The Stock Exchange said yesterday that its internal inquiries into what has become known as the Halliday, Simpson affair are still continuing.

The probe into the business conduct of the former Manchester-based stockbroking firm which the Exchange suspended last summer and which subsequently decided to close, was completed just before Christmas.

Disciplinary proceedings are being taken against the firm's partners.

The Exchange has declined to give its internal report to the Director of Public Prosecutions until these proceedings are complete.

Yesterday, Sir Nicholas Goodison, Stock Exchange chairman declined to acknowledge that discipinary hearings, thought to be set for next month, were taking place.

But added: "Our investigations are not finished. We have a number of leads which have to be followed up. There are a number of outside people involved, but that does not mean to say there is any supposition that they have done anything wrong.

"It's just that one wants to get to the bottom of any patterns of dealings."

He said he had not spoken to any trade association or company as he is obliged to be under Stock Exchange rules if it becomes apparent that any of their employees or members were involved.

He could not rule out the possibility of any other stockbroking firms being involved, but neither, at this stage, could he say they were.

"We are not going to leave stones unturned that need to be turned. If we need the help of some other authority we would ask them, like the Department of Trade or the Council for the Securities Industry. But we might well end up not knowing the answer.

The investigation into Halliday, Simpson touched the merchant banking group Arbuthnot, Latham, now part of Dow Scandia. Sir Trevor Dawson and Mr Michael Barrett chairman and managing director of its unit trust offshoot were suspended in connection with the Exchange probe and subsequently resigned.

KITCHEN QUEEN

Buyout hope

Receivers called in to Kitchen Queen said last night that they had been speaking to a number of parties interested in buying the furniture group which collapsed on Wednesday with total debts of about £5m.

Mr Harold Brierley, of Spicer and Pegler, the accountants, who were called in by National Westminster Bank, said some of the 125 staff had already been made redundant but there had been an encouraging amount of interest in the group's dozen stores. These are believed to have a realizable value sufficient to meet a large part of the £3m owed to the banks and preferred creditors.

Mr Stephen Boler, the 36-year-old Manchester businessman who bought Kitthen Queen for the Moben Group for £2.1m in June 1980, when it had 36 stores, has been selling them over the period to reduce borrowings. He is now assisting the receivers.

Kitchen Queen which was brought to market by Halliday, Simpson, the former Manchester stockbrokers was taken over by Moben directors when Mr Neville Johnson, Kitchen Queen's chairman, suddenly resigned and sold most of his shares after the group announced an unexpected loss.

Losses at the time Mr Boler bought Kithen Queen were said to be unquantifiable. Mr Brierley said yesterday that losses when he too over were substantial.

OZALID

More losses

Ozalid, the reprographic group whose directors were heavily criticized in a Department of Trade roport in 1980, has plunged deeper into a loss.

In the year to November, Ozalid made a pretax loss of £4.9m compared with £1.9m losses during the previous year. Turnover fell to £46.5m against £51.3m. Extraordinary debits in the period were £3.2m compared with £4.9m.

But the group, which in 1977 was taken over by the Dutch office machines group, Oce-van der Grinten in a £24.6m bid, says that current trading is showing significant improvements. This is because of the measures adopted over the year to bring the costs down to the level of revenue.

With the recent disposal of its wholly owned subsidiary, J. B. Broadley, the company is trying to keep all activities within the reprographic industry.

The board says that trading in the last two months is encouraging and better results are expected for the year.

The Department of Trade's report had criticised the way Ozalid directors were paid and the manner in which payments were facilitated. The report said that the board never saw fit to query the establishment of Swiss bank accounts or the receipts of substantial sums of money. The board was also ignorant of obligations to disclose to the company the members' aggregate emoluments and that sums were moved to fictitious companies.

Latest results

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
H J Baldwin (I)	1.15(1.26)	0.094b(0.16)	1.61b(2.03)	—(—)	—	—(1.0)
Chan Isles Inv (F)	—(—)	0.41(0.39)	—(—)	40a(37.5a)	26/4	40a(37.5a)
Goode Durrant (F)	61.7(46.04)	2.3(1.79)	6.1(4.8)	0.8(0.7)	30/3	0.8(0.7)
Metal Bulletin (F)	4.04(3.43)	0.91(0.78)	9.91(8.75)	3.5(—)	—	6.5(5)
Newbld & Brtn (F)	11(11.57)	0.42(0.34)	6.6(5.8)	2.3(2.3)	2/4	3.7(3.7)
Oceans Cons (I)	—(—)	0.039(0.041)	1.35(1.39)	—(—)	—	—(1.5)
Wm Ransom (I)	1.51(1.34)	0.15(0.15)	4.83(5.07)	1.5(1.5)	7/4	—(5.67)
Reliance Knit(I)	10.1(9.56)	0.11(0.03)	—(—)	0.7(0.7)	4/5	—(1.54)
W Whittnghm (F)	27.6(27.94)	2.96(2.84)	40.4(31.98)	4.7(4.5)	30/4	7(6.75)
H Young (I)	1.92(1.53)	0.039b(0.02b)	4.8b(2.4b)	—(—)	—	—(—)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. a=Gross payments. b=Loss.

Mr John Oakley, chairman of Grosvenor

LAGANVALE ESTATE

Takeover off

Laganvale Estate, the Belfast-based property company in which Mr Jim Slater has a substantial stake, will not now be taken over by finance group Sturla Holdings. After talks between the two groups the board has withdrawn its recommendation of the £4.5m offer annonced by Sturla.

In its offer for Laganvale last December, Sturla said it would give the finance group an attractive property portfolio, but Mr Robert Knight, chairman of Sturla, said that after a meeting on Wednesday he felt that the heat had gone out of the proposed deal. Sturla has decided to withdraw its offer.

Instead Sturla, which forecasts profits of £1.2m for the 15 months to April, plans a rights issire on terms which it simply says will be favourable.

The profit forecast was part of an agreement by the two parties made on January 19, but the Sturla forecast did not meet a number of requirements laid down by the Laganvale board.

During the negotiations, Laganvale's main asset, Mitre House, Brighton, was revalued at £3.5m against a book value of £1.9m and a July 1981 valuation of £3.4m

GROSVENOR

£7m injection

Private capital of £7m is being injected into Grosvenor Development Capital, the company set up a year ago by the National Enterprise Board to help small, growing businesses.

British Technology Group, which brought together the activities of the NEB and National Research Development Corporation, said that British Rail Pension Fund, County Bank on behalf of clients, and Equity Capital for Industry would put up the money and take a 71 per cent stake in Grosvenor with BTG retaining the rest.

The move is in line with Government guidelines to BTG on introducing private sector finance into its activities.

Grosvenor, whose executive chairman will be Mr John Oakley, chairman of Berwick Timpo, the toy manufacturer, already has £3m of investments in eight companies in which the NEB has a stake. Their combined turnover is £14m and all are profitable with the exception of one running at break-even.

GOODE DURRANT

28pc rise

Goode Durrant & Murray, the international finance and property group, raised pretax profits by 28 per cent from £1.79m to £2.3m in the year to October, on turnover up from £46m to £61.7m.

There was a 37 per cent increase in the group's United Kingdom housebuilding profits to £710,000 and its South African operations raised profits by 52 per cent from £386,000 to £588,000.

Profits from banking and financing rose from £499,000 to £826,000, while its New Zealand department store raised profits by 26 per cent to £741,000. Rental and sundry income was the only area to fall, slipping from £185,000 to £24,000.

The dividend for the year is raised to 1.25p from 1.07p and is covered 5.1 times. Earnings per share are stated as 6.1p against 4.8p. On a current cost basis, pre tax profits are £1.49m.

A breakdown of the group's profits other than in South Africa shows Australia and New Zealand contributing £737,000 against £585,000, the United States producing £1000,000 against £44,000 and United Kingdom profits of £876,000 against £777,000.

CAPITAL GAINS

Tax anger

Britain's powerful farm lobby is expected to react angrily to yesterday's court decision that paper profits made on the sale of moveable equipment such as harvesters, are liable to capital gains tax.

In the Chancery division, Mr Justice Nourse upheld a claim by the Inland Revenue that rollover relief provisions in the 1979 Capital Gains Tax Act apply only to fixed machinery.

The taxpayers, a four-man company of plant hire contractors from Blaenau Ffestiniog, in Snowdonia, argued that the sale of £30,000 worth of plant excavators in order to buy new, more expensive, machines was exempt from the tax because of the roll-over relief rules.

These allow the apparent gains on the sale of business assets to be rolled-over if new assets are bought to carry on a business.

The rules say that qualifying assets are: "Fixed plant or machinery which does not form part of a building or of a permanent or semi-permanent building in the nature of a building."

Mr David Parry, barrister for the Welsh plant hirers, said his clients had not ruled out the possibility of an appeal.

WHITTINGHAM

Dividend raised

William Whittingham, the property and photographic processing group, based in Wolverhampton, managed a 4 per cent increase in pretax profits to £2.96m in the year to October, against £2.85m, on a turnover down from £27.94m to £27.63m.

Truprint and Colortrend, the company's photographic subsidiaries, returned to profits with £1.78m for the full year, after half year losses of £112,000.

Difficulties in the industrial letting market and the poor state of the housing market hit the property and development division but profits were up slightly at £2.52m against £2.44m.

Mr Geoffrey Sharples, joint managing director, said that the group had expanded its industrial development activities south, with a scheme at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, and that house sales had been good so far this year.

The final dividend is raised from 6.43p to 6.78p, making a total for the year of 10p against 9.64p. Stated earnings per share rose from 31.98p to 40.45p.

Mr Sharples said that he did not accept that the photographic processing business was a price-sensitive area, as critics had suggested, and believed that the group had gained market share.

Base Lending Rates

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BCCI	14%
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The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div (p)	Yld %	P/E Actual	P/E Fully Taxed
124	100	ABI Hldgs 10% CULS	124	+1	10.0	8.1	—	—
75	62	Airsprung Group	70	—	4.7	6.7	11.1	15.4
51	33	Armitage & Rhodes	44	—	4.3	9.8	3.7	8.3
205	187	Bardon Hill	204	—	9.7	4.8	9.9	12.1
104	77	Deborah Services	77	—	6.0	7.8	3.8	7.2
130	97	Frank Horsell	130	—	6.4	4.9	11.7	24.1
81	39	Frederick Parker	81	+1	1.7	2.1	35.2	—
78	46	George Blair	51	+1	—	—	—	—
102	93	Ind. Prec. Castings	96	—	7.3	7.6	6.9	10.4
105	100	Isis Conv Pref	105	—	15.7	15.0	—	—
113	94	Jackson Group	94	—	7.0	7.4	3.0	6.7
130	108	James Burrough	112	—	8.7	7.8	8.2	10.3
334	250	Robert Jenkins	254	—	31.3	12.3	3.5	9.0
59	51	Scruttons "A"	56	—	5.3	9.5	8.6	8.0
222	164	Torday & Carlisle	164	—	10.7	6.5	5.3	9.8
15	10	Twinlock Ord	13½	+½	—	—	—	—
80	66	Twinlock 15% ULS	77	+1	15.0	19.5	—	—
44	27	Unilock Holdings	27	—	3.0	11.1	4.8	8.2
103	75	Walter Alexander	73xd	-2	8.4	8.8	4.8	8.5
263	212	W. S. Yeates	224	+1	13.1	5.8	4.2	8.6

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146



BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

Richardson: a billion pound man

I say in the confidence of offending nearly everyone that one man stands behind the staggering way more than £1,000m has been put down on Amersham International. This is the highest of high technology new issues in radio chemistry, with the ultimate in investment accolades — it is unique. The man is Michael Richardson 56, of Rothschilds, recruited from the bluest of blue blooded stockbrokers, Cazenove. As it happens Cazenove are brokers to this lucrative issue.

Modestly Richardson denies that the offer for sale (which ensures that the public as well as a few institutions end up owning Amersham) was ideal or even peculiarly his idea.

But his success does highlight the way Rothschild, Morgan Grenfell and Warburg have come to the top of the new issue heap virtually together.

Coincidentally or not, they all recruited top stockbrokers to beef up this side of their business. There is Richardson at Rothschilds, Bill Mackworth-Young (formerly of Rowe and Pitman) is at Morgan Grenfell, and Simon Garmoyle, who used to be at Scrimgeour helps out at Warburg. Other merchant banks with a taste for new issue business please note.



"Of course he's overweight, poor mite. It's all that nasty lead he gets out of the petrol"

Where was Heron Corporation's chief executive Gerald Ronson when news of his bigger offer for ACC was announced yesterday?

He was not behind his desk but amid a bevy of balloons and go-go dancers at the Mayfair Theatre. There Heron's American business partners the video game manufacturer Atari was announcing its 1982 plans for this country.

Sy Grann is no lounge lizard

A small factory estate on the outskirts of Harlow has become the centre of the fashion-conscious shoe trade. For Sy Grann, who is managing director of ROBA UK, a fast-growing international freight forwarding company, has discovered a source for lizard skins. Not just ordinary skins, but the rare teju lizard skins.

When Mr Grann recently found a source for baby crocodile skins, his customer was so pleased he gave him a pair of band-made baby crocodile skin shoes which cost around £320 a pair.

The Stock Exchange is chuckling over the story of the man who wrote to a newspaper: "I suffer from dry eyes (inability to shed tears). What do you recommend?" Reply: "See your doctor. If no success, see your Tax Inspector".

Computers for tout le monde

If you cannot beat them, join them. That appears to be the conclusion drawn by France's Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber to the prospect of computers increasingly taking over jobs presently carried out by human beings.

His World Centre for Micro-computers and Human Resources is due to open shortly in Paris. The centre will develop a small easy-to-use micro-computer, expected to sell at between £40 and £80, and examine how ordinary people can be taught to use it.

Servan-Schreiber is best known abroad for the book he brought out in the 1960's on American multinationals in Europe *"The American Challenge."*

Peter Wainwright

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Dr S. J. Ford has been appointed managing director of The British Aluminuim Company. He succeeds **Mr L. S. F. Charles**, who retired but remains on the board as a non-executive director.

Mr John Robertshaw chairman of United Scientific Holdings, has been appointed a director of The Technology and Innovations Exchange (TIE) and chairman of its financial panel.

Sir John Prideaux has been appointed to the board of Dow Scandia Banking Corporation.

Letting another watchdog loose on state industries



The controller, Mr Gordon Downey, (left) cannot get access to nationalised industry accounts. Mr Joel Barnett thinks it vital he is given more power.

The clash between ministers and nearly 300 MPs over greater parliamentary scrutiny of how nationalized industries spend the taxpayers money is likely to be resolved in Cabinet committee within the next two weeks. The issue of whether or not the Comptroller and Auditor General should examine nationalized industry accounts has caused a good deal of heat between back benchers and ministers and is regarded on both sides as being of vital constitutional importance.

The Comptroller and Auditor General's duty is to audit public accounts on behalf of Parliament. But under the existing legislation the comptroller, Mr Gordon Downey, has no direct access to the state industries. So in practice his oversight of public money covers only about 60 per cent of the money spent each year.

Although the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee has been calling for a more independent role for the Comptroller and Auditor General since the mid-Seventies, anger at what backbenchers believe is a high-handed view of ministerial responsibility stems largely from a Government White Paper last year on how to increase the efficiency of the public sector, and a Commons debate on the Public Accounts Committee 1980/81 report last November.

Basically the White Paper rejected the PAC's call for the Comptroller and Auditor *General to be appointed by* the Queen on the advice of Parliament rather than the Prime Minister and for him to conduct efficiency audits on the nationalized industry sector.

Instead, the Government proposed wider powers for the Monopolies and Mergers Commission which would be used as the main external agency for scrutinising the nationalized industries. There would be six state industry references a year rather than the present four so that each industry would be subject to a full scrutiny once every four years.

Additionally professional advisers including management consultants would be brought in to help the staff of the MMC. The Commission's reports would continue to be published and in the interests of Parliament, said Mr Nicholas Ridley, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, the industry's response to the report would also be available within three or four months of publication.

However this failed to satisfy many MPs (of all parties) who saw the issue as the latest chapter in the battle between ministerial prerogative and Parliament's power to monitor and approve public spending. One Conservative MP, Sir Albert Costain, went so far as to say the Government was fortunate there was no vote because for the first time in his life he would have voted against it.

Mr Edward Du Cann, chairman of the powerful Treasury and Civil Services Committee and a former chairman of the PAC said in the November debate that MPs should be ashamed that more types of public expenditure escaped audit than in any other comparable country in the world.

The White Paper, Mr Du Cann said, was a "timid, trivial and disappointing document".

Such was the outcry against the Government's steadfast-refusal to allow the Comptroller and Auditor to conduct a full audit that 287 MPs signed an early day motion last December supporting the PAC. This pressure forced the Leader of the Commons Mr Francis Pym to say the Government would reconsider. The Chancellor promised the House a statement early this year.

But in recent weeks, the views of ministers, especially of the Secretary of State for Energy Mr Nigel Lawson, Industry Secretary Mr Patrick Jenkin and Mr David Howell, the Transport Minister, have hardened around the major principle of ministerial responsibility.

The Government was not prepared to let the PAC and the Comptroller and Auditor *General loose among the* books, of the nationalized industries. Morale and efficiency would be damaged, the management would have less time to run their businesses effectively and risk-taking would be kept to a minimum if every move came under the eagle eye of Parliament and an industrial ombudsman.

Those views are mirrored by the Nationalized Industries Chairmen's Group (NICG). Its director Mr Jim Driscoll admits the principle of public accountability, but adds there is a need to strike a balance between the public's requirement's and the demands of running a business.

Already, the industries are subject to parliamentary questions, examination by the Select Committee on Industry, consumer councils, letters from MPs to chairmen which are given high priority, and audits by external firms of accountants. Additionally the NICG approved, albeit in a lukewarm fashion, the extended role of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

"Enough is enough", says Mr Driscoll. "The present arrangements for looking at our books are perfectly satisfactory. There is no benefit in bringing in the Comptroller and Auditor General into the nationalized industries' accounts. He has *insufficient experience in* handling the affairs of a commercial, public organisation."

"In the battle of the Titans, it is best to keep your head below the parapet

" The Parliamentary champion of reform, Mr Joel Barnett, formerly Chief Secretary to the Treasury clearly feels the issue is of major importance to Parliament.

While agreeing with the Treasury's guiding principles of ministerial responsibility Parliament, high standards of financial stewardship and prudence in handing public funds, Mr Barnett believes ministerial responsibility is not a real substitute for parliamentary accountability.

"The Government will be seriously miscalculating if it resists the proposals of 287 MPs from all parties, including former Tory ministers and the leaders of the Liberals and Social Democrats.

"If the Government is not sensible on this matter, then there will be fierce resistance from backbenchers".

It seems unlikely that Mr Barnett, Mr Du Cann and their supporters will be fully satisfied in their desire for a *national audit office (which* could be headed by the comptroller and Auditor General) and the right of Parliament rath than the Prime Minister to recommend the appointment to the Crown of the Comptroller and Aditor General. But neither will ministers win their battle to keep full control of the nationalized industries' accounts within their departments.

For it appears that the Treasury, which opposed the PAC last November, is now working out a compromise. Although ministers could not agree on a solution to the issue in the Cabinets E (Economic) Committee last week, disussion is not at an end.

Talks will be held between the Treasury, ministers and probably Mr Barnett and his PAC collieagues before the issue goes into the E committee within the next two weeks.

There are two possible compromises. First, the Comptroller and Auditor General might be involved in nationalized industries audits as a back-up service to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Second, the House of Commons Select Committee on Nationalized industries could be resurrected. This was abolished in 1979 to make way for a general-purpose Industry and Trade Committee.

*Whether these compromis*es would satisfy the PAC and the backbenchers who signed the motion criticising the White Paper is another matter. The NICG may feel that the PAC proposals in favour of the Comptroller and Auditor Generalmerely involve more time-consuming appearances and preparation of papers which would duplicate current practice.

But Mr Barnett and his colleagues have the overriding principle of public accountability for public money behind them.

And they could have an ally in the form of the Prime Minister.

Mrs Thatcher is keen to make the public sector more efficient. The Think Tank, which reported on this matter last year, has been instructed to keep a watching brief onways to improve the performance of the nationalized industries. Such support could be decisive in the battle between Parliament and Government.

Kevin Page

Why the robot army is smaller than it seems

TECHNOLOGY: AUTOMATION

By Clive Cookson



Getting to grips with automation — a Soviet robot designed for use in the injection moulding process on show at the recent Russian Economic Achievement Exhibition.

Japan already has 100,000 industrial robots and the Soviet Union will have 100,000 by 1985. Even France boasts 38,000 robots. But backward Britain can claim only a few hundred by the best estimate.

That dismal impression of this country's performance in robotics could have been picked up by a casual (and, admittedly, selective) reading of newspaper reports over the past few months. The reality, as usual, is not nearly so depressing.

The main trouble is that some countries inflate their robot populations, deliberately or otherwise, by adopting a far wider definition of the term than the one recognised in Britain and the United States. Th vast majority of the "100,000 robots" identified by a recent Japanese survey are either non-computerized "manual manipulators" operated directly by humans or simple "pick and place" machines following a fixed sequence of actions. Neither category should be dignified by the label "robot".

A true robot must be reprogrammable and must be able to manipulate and transport parts or tools through a variable sreies of movements. When it is no longer needed for one set if tasks, its electronic brain can be programmed to perform another sequence.

The Japanese may not have set out to overawe us with visions of a vast army of indusrial robots; it could just be a genuine difference in terminology. but Mr Tom Brock, executive secretary of the British Robot Association (BRA), insist that the French have gone in for deliberate exaggeration, in persuit of national glory. He quotes a recent claim that France has 38,000 industrial robots. 'If you check with the French they will swear to their figures because they want to be Europe's number one in robots," Mr Brock said.

The BRA gives Britain a respectable fifth place in the world robot league. Its annual cencus, announced last week, showed that the UKrobot population increased by 90 per cent during 1981 and stood at 731 at the end of the year. First came Japan with 10,000 industrial robots, followed by the United States (5,000), West Germany(2,300) and Sweden (1,700).

According to the BRA, Britainhas moved ahead of its closest European rivals, France and Italy, despite the £8m that Renault has spent on robot research and development over the past six years, Olivetti's leading role in robot design, and Fiat's early commitment to robotics in car manufacturing.

France is given 600 robots and Italy 450 (only 50 more than a year ago). Other Western countries have 1,500 between them.

The BRA is one of the few authorities to place less than half of the world robot population in Japan. Others give the Japanese a more commanding lead. For example the Robot Institute of America estimated last year that Japan had 14,200 robots, compared to just over 4,000 in the United States.

Inbucon, the large British management consultancy whose study *Industrial Robots in Japan, USA and UK* was published this month, says: "Secretiveness about the extent of robot utilization in many Japanese companies makes it difficult to judge the real extent of robot use in that country.

"In Japan this secrecy is facilitated by well established lateral industrial relationships which, whilst making it difficult for Mitsubishi Heavy Industries to supply its robots to Toyota, for example, also ensures that Mitsubishi Motors' technological applications are not leaked to its rivals in other groups," the Inbucon report says.

In contradiction to the BRA, Inbucon states: "Despite these statistical uncertainties, it is quite clear that over half the robots working in the world today are in use in Japan.

The problem of secretiveness is of course far worse with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The Russians are known to be making a major drive to instal robots in their factories, to replace idle and unreliable Soviet workers as quickly as possible, but no one in the West has a reliable estimate of their success. Last week's claim by Novosti Press Agency that the USSR will have 100,000 robots by 1986 seems wildly optimistic. A reasonable estimate for the number of Soviet robots today would be 3,000.

When we look back from the perspective of the next century, we may decide that no company in the world in 1982 was using what we then understand by a robot. For the terminology is likely to move on with the technology, leaving behind today's extremely primitive "first generation" machines.

The "one-armed bandit" robots we use now are "blind, daft, dumb devices screwed to the floor", to use the words of Mr Peter Davey who runs the Science and Engineering Research Council's Industrial Robotics Initiative.

Today's industrial robot will perform exactlly the same sequence of actions, regardless of circumstances, until a human reprogrammes it to do something different.

The second generation of machines, being developed in academic and industrial research laboratories around the world, will have the intelligence that many people associate with a true robot. They will have a sense of touch, sight and/or hearing and their behaviour will change automatically in response to signals

Intelligent robots, with sensors and enough computing power to cope with disorder and variations in their work, should start to appear on factory floors in the United States and Japan within the next year or two. IBM's first commercial robot which may be unveiled at next month's Society of Manufacturing Engineers robots show in Detroit, is expected to be a major step in the direction of intelligence.

Britain's national research and development programme in industrial robotics is coordinated by the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC), which will spend £1.1m this year supporting 22 research partnerships between industry and universities or polytechnics.

That sum hardly compares with the £275m a year which the Japanese firm Hitachi reportedly lavishes on its seven robotics laboratories. As Mr Davey said: "Government funded research is relatively even more important in the United Kingdom than in Japan, where the healthy state of the engineering industry allows many firms to run superb in-house research and development labs."

Because research takes a long time to flower, the most promising results so far are coming from groups that existed — with few staff and little financial support — before the SERC robotics initiative started in 1980.

Edinburgh University has been a centre of robotics expertise since the 1960s and has managed to keep moving forward despite the Science Research Council's decision to cut its grant in the early 1970s.

Cranfield Institute of Technology is working with several industrial groups on robots with a sense of touch that will be able to assemble industrial components.

However, although the amount of money available to SERC may be small it is at least being used sensibly. As a matter of policy, Britain's public funds are not used to improve the first-generation fixed robot. They are devoted to work on intelligent (and often mobile) second-generation systems.

Business Editor

More pieces for the jigsaw

It has been something of a puzzle trying to reconcile the mid-winter faltering in industrial output with the recent buoyancy of bank lending — the latest figures putting the rise in the six weeks to mid-January at an uncomfortable £1,680m.

Part of the rise in bank lending has, of course, been attributable to the sharp rise in mortgage lending by the banks, together with borrowing to finance tax payments deferred during the civil servants' dispute.

But after yesterday's figures for manufacturers' and distributors' stocks it would seem that a good deal of the rest can now be put down to a virtual end to destocking in the fourth quarter of last year.

That, of course, does not square the circle completely, since it does not fit in cleanly with the temporary lapse in industrial output. The missing link here must be higher imports.

None of this in any case gives us any definite evidence as to which way the economy is likely to move in the immediate future.

The overall destocking figure was helped considerably by retailers restocking. Are these latter stocks moving on to the consumer? Or do they repesent involuntary stockholding following a bout of over-optimism by shops and stores?

Investment
With hindsight

At first sight the latest figures on capital spending make gloomy reading. Record spending by distributive and service industries in 1981 was not enough to outweigh a slump in direct manufacturing investment of 17½ per cent. Even including the booming leasing business, manufacturer's investment was down 13¼ per cent. The fall recorded for manufacturing, distributive and service industries as a whole was 4.6 per cent.

But a look back at past investment figures suggests that first impressions may be misleading. The statistics show a disconcerting tendency to improve with time.

Roger Nightingale, economics director of stockbrokers Hoare Govett, has been waging a one-man good news campaign (some hopeful Government ministers apart) on the British economy for some time. He points out that progress in the recent past always looks worse than in previous years because of data revisions, with capital spending figures a leading villain. The table suggests he may be right.

But why should the first estimates by consistently so far below the later ones? The provisional figures are compiled on the basis of returns from about half the firms sampled (about 25 per cent of all firms). There is perhaps a tendency for the bigger firms to reply first with late returns coming from more dynamic smaller firms.

Whatever the reasons, if 1981 turns out like the two earlier years the fall in investment may ultimately prove to have been very modest. If this is so, prospects for the economy could yet confound the pessimists.

CAPITAL SPENDING

% change on previous year

est'tes	1979	1980	1981
1st	4.2	–0.05	–4.6
2nd	4.9	0.2	
3rd	7.1	–0.07	
4th	10.8	2.4	

Computers
The long view

The Department of Industry and Science and Engineering Research Council are still arguing with computing experts from universities and industry over Britain's best response to Japan's grandiose "fifth generation" computer project.

Proponents of a £250m five-year programme, to encourage British electronics research over a wide field from artificial intelligence to very large scale integration, seem close to winning the debate. But — contrary to some reports — the Government has yet to commit itself; a final go-ahead is unlikely before the summer.

The most important requirement of any programme is that it should be genuinely farsighted, like the Japanese effort. The greatest single handicap to technological progress in Britain has been the shortsighted reluctance of government and industry to respond to the inventiveness of researchers in universities and in companies' own laboratories.

Firms in this country are reluctant to look more than five years ahead when they make research and development decisions; their Japanese counterparts' research and development horizons can extend over two decades. And public bodies can be just as blinkered.

If the fifth generation programme can stimulate firms like GEC and ICL and bureacracies like the SERC and DoI to make a mental leap into the late 1990s, it will be tremendously valuabe

B.O.P.
A success

Bankers, industialists and leading financiers gathered at the Mansion House in the City of London yesterday to applaud the apparent success of the Government's Business Opportunities Programme, the major public relations scheme in which ministers have attempted to increase small firms' awareness of state measures to help them.

Certainly, the figures seem to indicate a large measure of success. Since May, last year, more than 7,000 small firms and their advisers have attended government-inspired conferences and meetings around the country at which ministers have expounded the attractions of the 76 schemes which have been devised specifically to assist the small firms sector.

Among the most popular (particularly in the banking sector) has been the loan guarantee scheme.

According to Mr John MacGregor, the Industry Minister reponsible for the programme, £80m of the £150m allocated to the laon guarantee scheme has now been taken up and the number of business failures among applicants is less then ten.

More than half of the 2,300 guarantees given so far have been for newly created businesses, a clear sign, said Mr Jenkin, that the scheme was plugging a gap in the system. He did not add, however, that the same businesses would love to see even more incentives announced in next month's Budget. Even so, the fact that some dynamism has been put into the process of making smaller businesses aware of the many schemes available to them must be considered an exercise that has been worthwhile.

After the heavy stagging of Amersham International and the likelihood of a hefty premium in first dealings next week, Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy, may well be wondering how he would like to see the BNOC flotation carried out. Clearly there would be considerable embarrassment for the Government in being seen to sell off oil assets "too cheaply", particularly if overseas investors are to be allowed in on the issue. Yet there remains a considerable reluctance on the part of those involved in the City issuing process to adopt the most obvious alternative, the sale by tender with stock going to the highest bidders. Mr Lawson has enough experience of the City to insist that it uses its brain power to come up with something appreciably better than we have seen in the cases of Amersham and Brish Aerospace.

BRITISH SHIPBUILDERS

New rig design unveiled

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

British Shipbuilders yesterday launched a pioneering design of offshore drilling rig capable of exploring for and producing oil in the most hostile waters.

Details of the highly sophisticated semi-submersible rig were unveiled last night by Mr Robert Atkinson, chairman of the State corporation, in the wake of the loss earlier this week of the semi-submersible, Ocean Ranger. The Japanese-built vessel on charter to Mobil Oil, Canada, sank during a storm off the east coast of Newfoundland, claiming the lives of all 84 crew on board.

The new BS design, code-named BS 8,000 DP, with a likely price tag of £80m, incorporates advanced technology which will enable it to drill in areas similar to those that claimed the Ocean Ranger. The vessel has been designed with computer controlled positioning equipment and special features which will enable it to operate in very deep water and withstand Artic conditions.

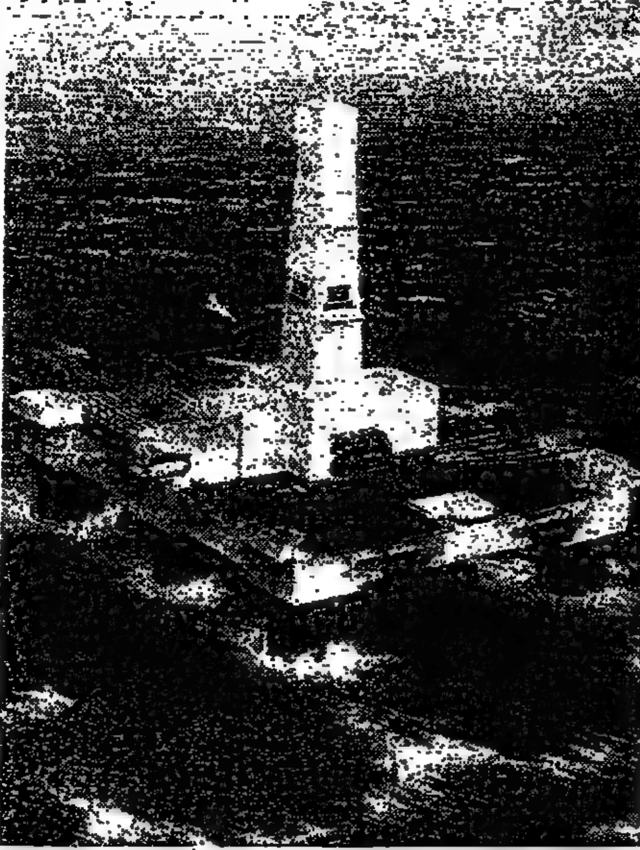
This new design marks a significant move by BS to secure a stronger foothold in the offshore market and win more orders to protect the jobs of an estimated 36,000 workers in BS yards.

Mr Atkinson, who is backing the oil industry demands for the Government to modify Britain's North Sea tax regime to encourage oil field development in next month's Budget, emphasised the importance of the latest design.

"We have taken as the bottom rung of our development ladder the top rung of the present designs, in order to reach a section of the market beyond the capability of present designs," he said.

The BS chairman said the experts had decided there was little point in developing existing good and proven designs. It had been decided to take a "quantum leap" and produce a heavy duty design able to operate in even deeper waters in areas remote from sources of supply.

British yards ventured into the offshore market 17 years ago but the United Kingdom failed to develop its expertise. In an attempt to regain the lost ground, BS established an offshore division 18 months ago. Yards in that division are now working on contracts for three semi submersibles and the corporation is aiming to gain a slice of a market which is growing at an annual rate of 10 per cent — equivalent to a demand for between four and six new rigs each year.



Pioneering design: The rig that can withstand arctic conditions.

US output falls for sixth consecutive month

Washington, Feb 18.—Producton at United States factories plunged a seasonally adjusted 3 per cent in January as the recession and severe winter weather took their toll, the Federal Reserve Board said.

Last month's decline was the largest since May 1980, at the depths of the previous recession when output also dropped 3 per cent. The most recent big decline was an adusted 3.4 per cent in January 1975, also during a recession.

The latest figure marked the sixth consecutive monthly decline in factory output and followed adjusted decreases of 2.1 per cent in December and 1.8 per cent in November.

Meanwhile, the Commerce Department reported that January housing starts remained poor for the sixth month in a row.

Work began on new houses last month at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 894,000 units, down 0.6 per cent from the revised rate for December of 899,000 units and 44 per cent below the rate of 1,585,000 units the year before.

High interest rates, which have kept housing starts at depressed levels for more than a year, continued to hit the car industry last month.

Output in January fell to an adjusted annual rate of 3.6 million units, the lowest since 2.8 million in November 1959 during a steel strike.

Although freezing temperatures and heavy snows contributed to the overall decline in factory production in January, high interest rates were the main factor, economists said.

They agreed that output was unlikely to show much improvement before the second quarter.

A quick rebound in sales, especially in cars and home appliances, appeared less likely after Wednesday's decision by leading banks to raise their prime lending rates to 17 per cent from 16½ per cent. The increase was the second since the start of the month, when the prime rate was 15¾ per cent.—AP—Dow Jones.

TOKYO-EXCHANGE

Dilemma for foreign firms

Foreign securities firms who are to be invited to take up direct membership of the Tokyo Stock Exchange are uncertain as to how they will begin trading.

Earlier, the Exchange said it decided in principle to open membership to foreign securities firms by amending the articles of association barring foreign or Japanese firms with foreign ownership.

However, there are no vacancies in the 83-strong membership.

Bache Halsey Stuart Shields (Japan) said "if we want to have membership we will have to buy it from one of the present member firms, and it is said to cost about Y1,000m (£12.27m).

Vickers de Costa doubted if any present members would want to part with their membership. "Unless the Exchange increases the number of memberships, we will have no chance of getting into the market," they said.

Some overseas dealers noted recent overseas criticism of the closed nature of the Japanese financial markets, notably the stock market, and said the Exchange move was a gesture to stem such criticism.

There have been two other recent changes of Tokyo stock markets' regulations relating to foreign firms.

Last October the Japanese Finance Ministry started to allow non-resident investors to establish selling positions on margin in the market, but they remain banned from margin buying.

The next month the general membership of the Exchange voted to raise the commission rebate for foreign brokers with branches in Japan operating through Japanese brokers able to act on the trading floor.

BIDS AND DEALS

Eagle Star Insurance has acquired a controlling interest in the French insurance company L'Independance. The capital of L'Independance has been increased from F11.4m and Eagle Star now holds 70 per cent of the new total.

L'Independance was established in 1920 and Eagle Star has had a minority stake in it since its formation. Acquisition of L'Independance, in conjunction with the recent establishment of Eagle Star's new life subsidiary in France, will considerably enlarge the Eagle Star group's role in the French market.

Sir Denis Mountain, chairman of Eagle Star groups, Mr A. R. N. Ratcliff, chief general manager and Mr J. A. Walsh, general manager, overseas, will continue to be members of the Conseil d'Administration of L'Independance.

Common Bros Group has completed the merger of its Lloyd's insurance broking subsidiary, Horncastle Investments, with R. K. Harrison, J. L. Jacobs Insurance Brokers a subsidiary of R. K. Harrison for £1.5m in cash and Horncastle shares.

Estimated earnings for R. K. Harrion J.L. Jacobs for the year ending last December is £400,000.

The new company will be named Harrison Horncastle.

Mr Gerald Ronson, the chief executive of Heron Corporation, said yesterday that discussions were taking place "to explore areas of potential interest" with Warner Communications, the New Yok Based entertaiment conglomerate.

Mr Ronson declined to elaborate further, although he did indicate that the discussions involved overseas interests of the two companies, and may involve joint marketing ventures rather than acquisitions.

In this country, Heron's Ingersoll Electronics subsidiary, has until now been the exclusive distributor of home video games and pesonal computers for Atari, a Warner subsidiary.

In a joint announcement yesterday Mr Ronson and Mr Anton Bruehl, president of Atari said Atari was now to do its own distribution in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, although Heron would remain "actively associated with Atari" in expanding the Atari business.

In particular, there is to be a £4.5m programme of advertising and merchandising expenditure aimed at the United Kingdom retail electronics trade.

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES

CRA, the Australian mining company which is one of Rio Tinto-Zinc's most important subsidiaries, suffered a 93 per cent collapse in 1981 consolidated net earnings to A$12.5m (£7.4m). A final dividend of 2.5 cents has been declared, giving a total of 5 cents, compared with 19 cents for the year before.

The biggest setback was at AM & S, a base metal producer, where a profit of A$48.6m was replaced by a loss of A$200,000. The A$12.3m deficit from mining and smelting was only just offset by net gains from activities in forward markets.

Extraordinary gain of A$13.7m from the sale of stakes in the Blair Athol Coal property and AAR and from the inclusion of the group's share of earnings from Kembla Coal & Coke raised earnings per share from 2.9 cents to 6 cents. But the comparable 1980 figures were 43 cents and 47.4 cents.

CRA, which is 57.2 per cent owned by RTZ, blamed the greatly depressed profits on weak metal prices, and lower production.

Bougainville, the gold and copper mine in Papua New Guinea, also suffered lower profits. At the same time CRA group expenditure rose to A$81.5m. The amount charged to earnings went up by 35 per cent to A$62.5m.

Exchange rates also moved against CRA, so that the company incurred a net loss from currency fluctuations of A$6.17m against profits of A$180,000 in 1980. The strength of the Australian dollar was a significant factor in results at AM & S.

Nevertheless, consolidated net earnings fell within the range expected by analysts who had been warned by lower profits from companies in which CRA holds major stakes. CRA shares closed at 156p in London, a rise of 3p, RTZ shares were 442p, a fall of 5p.

Canon Inc, the Japanese camera and copier manufacturer yesterday announced after tax profits for 1981 of 15,750m yen (£35m) an improvement of 6.9 per cent on 1980.

The company said that earnings grew more slowly than sales, and added that it expects earnings to decline in 1982.

Earnings per share fell to 50.38 yen on 312.8 million issued shares from 53.79 yen on 273.9 million issued shares.

Canon has issued a final dividend of 6 yen a share, unchanged from a year earlier. This brings the total dividend for the year to 12 yen, up from 11 yen for 1980.

Monier, the Australian building products group yesterday reported a 10 per cent rise in interim 1981/82 earnings and said the second half should be much the same.

Net profits in the six months ended December 31 were A $8.6m (£4.9m) against A $7.75m previously despite difficult housing markets in Australia, Japan and the United States.

International Harvester Co, the United States truck and farm machinery manufacturer, is likely to announce substantial operating losses for most of this fiscal year, according to industry analysts. It may not return to profitability until 1983 at the earliest, they say.

CAPITAL MARKETS

Mitsubishi Mining and Cement and Daiwa House both plan SFr50m convertible note issues on the Swiss capital market for private placement early next month, market sources say.

The Mitsubishi issue was initially planned for this month but is postponed, they say.

The same goes for a SFr40m convertible issue by Misawa Homes which will probably come to the market next month.

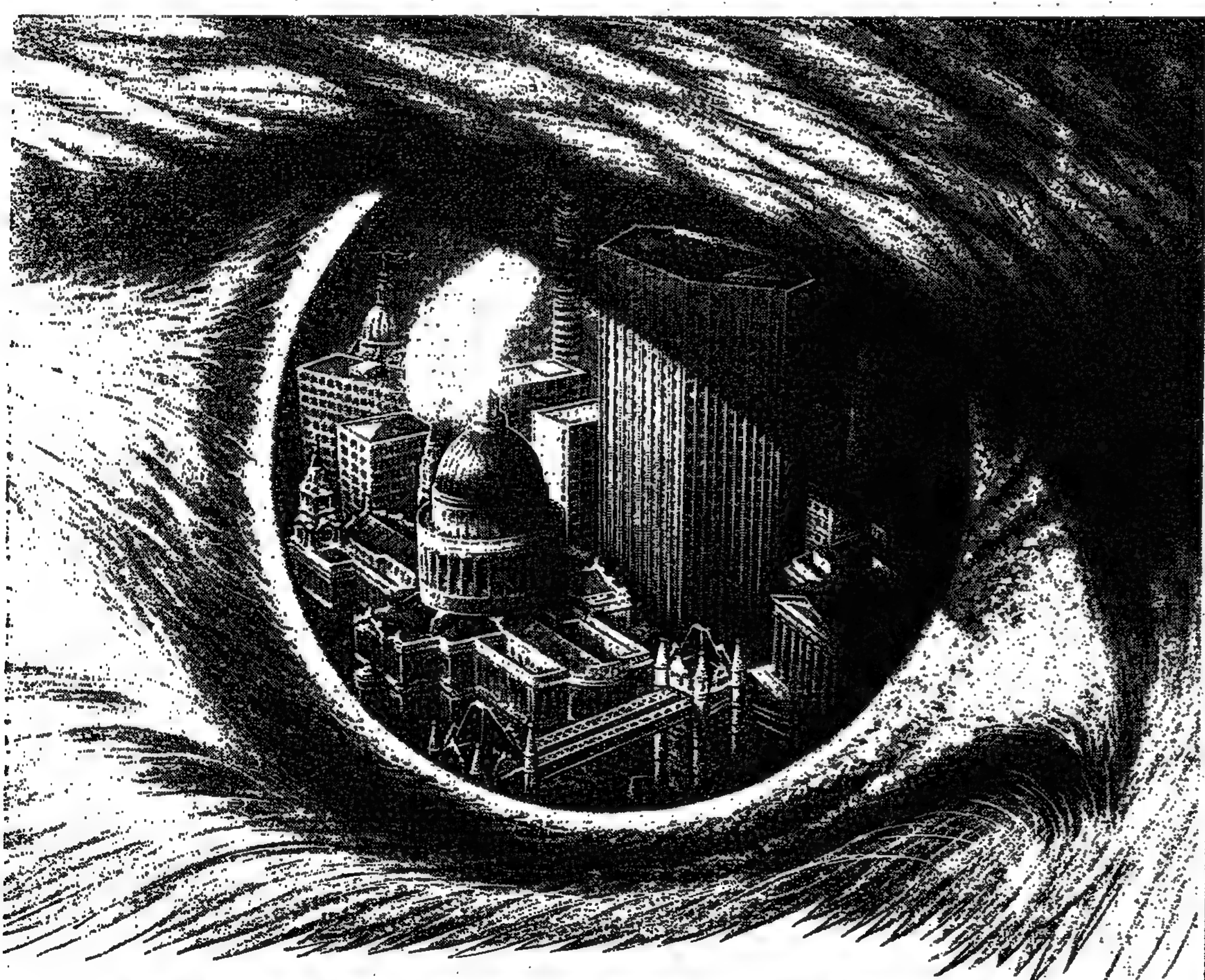
The coupon for the SFr100m maximum 10 year bond of Oesterreichische Postsparkasse, Vienna, was raised to 7½ per cent, issuing consortium leader Kredietbank (Suisse) say.

Issue price was unchanged at 99.5 per cent, but the subscription period was extended to February 22 from February 17, it says.

The move follows a trend of rising yields for Swiss Franc foreign bonds on the Zurich bond market in recent days, banking sources say.

Murata Manufacturing say it will issue a DM50m eight-year convertible bond at par with payment on March 17 through underwriters led by Bayerische Vereinsbank Aktiengesellschaft and Nomura International.

The bonds, convertible after May 21, will be floated in all world markets except the United States and be listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. Other terms will be decided on March 1.



COMMODITIES

COPPER: Higher grade closed irregular. — Afternoon. — Higher grade cash, £862-63.00; three months £891.50-92.00. Sales: 7,650 tonnes. Cash standard cathodes, £858-60.00; three months, £886-88.00; Sales: Nil tonnes. Morning: — Higher grade cash, £857-857.50; three months, £887-887.50. Settlement, £857.50. Sales: 17,950 tonnes. Cash standard cathodes, £854-856; three months, £882-884; Settlement, £856.00; Sales: 1,025 tonnes.

TIN: Standard tin, for cash, was steady and for three months was barely steady. — Afternoon. — Standard cash, £8890-8900 a tonne; three months £7870-80. Sales, 3,640 tonnes. High grade, cash £8890-8900; three months £7870-80. Sales, Nil tonnes. Morning. — Standard cash £8885-8895; three months £7890-7900. Settlement, £8895. Sales, 670 tonnes. High grade, cash £8885-8895; three months, £7890-7900. Settlement, £8895. Sales, Nil tonnes. Singapore tin ex-works $M33.40 a picul.

LEAD closed steadier. — Afternoon — Cash £329-30.00 per tonne; three months £340-40.50. Sales, 2,600 tonnes. Morning. — Cash £325-325.50; three months £335-335.50. Settlement £325.50. Sales, 5,300 tonnes.

Afternoon —£435-36.00 per tonne; three months £440-454; three months £438-438.50. Settlement, £434.00. Sales, 7,650 tonnes.

PLATINUM was at £195.45 ($356.50) a troy ounce.

Bullion market (fixing levels). —Spot, 447.55p per troy ounce (United States cents equivalent, 825.30); three months, 462.55p (856.70c). London Metal Exchange.—Afternoon.—Cash, 448-49p; three months, 463.5-64p. Sales, 65 lots of 10,000 troy ounces each. Morning— —Cash, 447.5-48.2p; three months, 462.5-463p. Settlement, 448.2p. Sales, 66 lots.

ALUMINIUM was steady.—Afternoon— —Cash, £584-85.00 per tonne; three months £605.50-6.00. Sales, 4,700 tonnes. Morning.—Cash £581.50-£582.50; three months £603-603.50. Settlement, £582.50. Sales, 9,400 tonnes.

NICKEL was steady. — afternoon. — Cash £3050-55 per tonne; three months £3075-80. Sales, 174 tonnes. Morning. — Cash £3050-3055; three months £3080-3085; Settlement, £3055. Sales, 540 tonnes.

RUBBER (pence per kilo): — Mch 44.00-44.40; Apl 45.00-45.60; Apl Jne 46.40-46.50; Jly Sep 50.00-50.10; Oct-Dec 53.30-53.40; Jan Mch 56.40-56.50; Apl Jne 59.50—59.60; Jly Sep 62.50-62.60, Oct Dec 65.40-65.50. Sales: eight lots at five tonnes and 528 at 15 tonnes, including six kerbs and two options.

COFFEE. — ROBUSTAS (£ per tonne): Mch 1389-1390; May 1308-1310; Jly 1261-1262; Sep 1239-1240; Nov 1210-1219; Jan 1210-1220; Mch 1191-1218. Sales: 4,506 lots, including 282 options.

COCOA (£ per metric ton): March 1187-1188; May 1157-1158; July 1171-1172; Sept 1184-1185; Dec 1196-1197; March 1210-1313; May 1210-1223. Sales: 3,179 lots. ICCO prices: daily (Feb 17), 95.21 c. Indicator price (Feb 18), 5-day average 95.29 c. (US cents per lb.)

SUGAR. —The London daily price of "raws" was £1.00 lower at £176; the "whites" price was unchanged at £182. Futures (£ per tonne): March 177.15-177.25; May 177.85-177.90; Aug 180.10-180.15; Oct 183.10-183.15; Jan 184.10-184.60; March 187.50-187.90; May 189.55-190.25. Sales: 4,525 lots. ISA prices (Feb 17): daily, 13.6 c; 15-day average, 13.23 c.

SOYABEAN MEAL (£ per tonne): Feb 115.00-145.00; April 131.00-131.20; June 129.00-129.20; Aug 129.30-129.60; Oct 130.00-130.60; Dec 130.00-134.00; Feb 131.00-135.00. Sales: 128 lots.

WOOL.—NZ Crossbreds: No 2 contract (cents per kilo):—March 390-393; May 402-406; Aug 415-424; Oct 416-425; Dec 426-430; Jan 426-431; March 429-435; May 439-445; Aug 440-455. Sales: 180 lots.

GRAIN. (The Baltic).—WHEAT.—Canadian western red spring, No 1, 13½ per cent: Feb £120.25, Mch £121.00; Apl £111.50 trans-shipment east coast seller. U.S. hard winter, 13½ per cent Mch £117.00 trans-shipment east coast quoted. ESC unquoted. English feed FOB: Mch £115; Apl-Jne £118.50 east coast sellers.

MAIZE.—French: Mch £133.50 sellers trans-shipment east coast. S. Afr. white, unquoted. S. Afr. yellow Apl £80.50 quoted.

BARLEY.—English feed FOB: Feb £112.00, Bristol Channel: Mch £112.00 east coast and £113.00 south coast; Sep £106.00 east coast; Oct-Dec £110.00 east coast sellers. All cif unless stated.

BARLEY: March £107.00; May £110.25; Sept £102.60; Nov £106.40; January £110.25. Sales: 189 lots.

WHEAT: March £110.95; May £114.65; Sept £106.90; Nov £110.55; January £114.40. Sales: 177 lots.

Home-Grown Cereals Authority.—Location ex-farm spot prices:

	Other milling WHEAT	Feed WHEAT	Feed BARLEY
S EAST	—	£108.80	£106.80
S WEST	—	—	£106.00
W MIDS	—	£109.20	£107.70
N WEST	£111.00	£109.90	£106.90

MEAT COMMISSION: Average fatstock prices at representative markets on Feb. 18. GB: Cattle, 101.37p per kg lw (+0.56). UK: Sheep, 204.54p per kg est d c w (+5.64). GB: Pigs, 78.20p per kg lw (-2.50).

England and Wales: Cattle nos. down 7.8 per cent, ave. price, 101.28p (+0.70). Sheep nos. up 13.8 per cent, ave. price, 206.25p (+5.10). Pig nos. down 1.4 per cent, ave. price, 78.30p (-2.50).

Scotland: Cattle nos. up 3.4 per cent, ave. price, 101.59p (+0.10). Sheep nos. up 20.4 per cent, ave. price, 199.55p (+7.56).

INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM EXCHANGE ($ US per tonne).—Feb. 280.00-82.00; Mar. 271.50-71.75; April. 264.25-66.50; May. 263.00-65.25; June. 263.00-64.00; July. 264.00-66.00; Aug. 270.00-71.00; Sept. 271.00-78.00; Oct. 275.25-84.00. Sales: 1,225 lots of 100 tonnes each.

POTATOES: (Gafta).—April £137.80; Nov. £65.90; Feb. £76.80. Sales, 648 lots of 40 tonnes each.

WALL STREET

New York, Feb 18. — The stock market lost momentum after President Reagan's press conference, and finished the day with a very modest gain.

The Dow Jones industrial average increased more than five points by early afternoon, turned fractionally lower after the press conference, then inched higher to close up 1.33 at 828.96. Advances nosed past declines by about 730 to 710 and volume swelled to some 61 million shares from 47.66 million yesterday.

"Certainly nothing enlightening came out of the press conference", said Mr Harvey Deutsch, of Purcell Graham.

	Feb 18	Feb 17
Allied Chem	[illegible]	[illegible]
Allied Stores	[illegible]	[illegible]
Allis Chalmers	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alcoa	[illegible]	23
Amax Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amerada Hess	[illegible]	19
Am Airlines	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Brands	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Broadcast	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Can	[illegible]	29
Am Cyanamid	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Elec Power	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Home	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Motors	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Nat Res	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Standard	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Telephone	[illegible]	57
AMF Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
Armco Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]
Asarco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ashland Oil	[illegible]	26
Atlantic Richfield	39	38
Avco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Avon Products	[illegible]	28
Bankers Tst NY	33	[illegible]
Bank of America	19	[illegible]
Bank of NY	[illegible]	[illegible]
Beatrice Foods	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bendix	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bethlehem Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]
Boeing	[illegible]	[illegible]
Boise Cascade	[illegible]	[illegible]
Borden	[illegible]	[illegible]
Borg Warner	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bristol Myers	[illegible]	[illegible]
BP	[illegible]	[illegible]
Burlington Ind	19	[illegible]
Burlington Nthn	[illegible]	48
Burroughs	[illegible]	[illegible]
Campbell Soup	[illegible]	[illegible]
Canadian Pacific	[illegible]	[illegible]
Caterpillar	[illegible]	[illegible]
Celanese	[illegible]	[illegible]
Central Soya	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chase Manhat	58	[illegible]
Chem Bank NY	[illegible]	62
Chrysler	[illegible]	[illegible]
Citicorp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cities Service	[illegible]	[illegible]
Clark Equip	[illegible]	[illegible]
Coca Cola	[illegible]	[illegible]
Colgate	[illegible]	18
CBS	44	[illegible]
Columbia Gas	[illegible]	[illegible]
Combustion Eng	[illegible]	[illegible]
Comwlth Edison	[illegible]	20
Cons Edison	13	[illegible]
Cons Foods	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cons Power	[illegible]	[illegible]
Continental Grp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Control Data	[illegible]	[illegible]
Corning Glass	[illegible]	[illegible]
CPC Intnl	[illegible]	[illegible]
Crane	23	[illegible]
Crocker Int	[illegible]	29
Crown Zeller	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dart & Kraft	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deere	[illegible]	[illegible]
Delta Air	28	[illegible]
Detroit Edison	[illegible]	[illegible]
Disney	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dow Chemical	[illegible]	21
Dresser Ind	[illegible]	26
Duke Power	[illegible]	[illegible]
Du Pont	[illegible]	[illegible]
Eastern Air	[illegible]	[illegible]
Eastman Kodak	[illegible]	[illegible]
Eaton Corp	[illegible]	33
El Paso Nat Gas	[illegible]	[illegible]
Equitable Life	[illegible]	[illegible]
Esmark	[illegible]	45
Evans P. D.	[illegible]	[illegible]
Exxon Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fed Dept Stores	[illegible]	[illegible]
Firestone	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fst Chicago	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fst Intrst Bncp	[illegible]	[illegible]

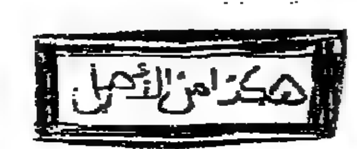
	Feb 18	Feb 17
Fst Nat Boston	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fst Penn Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ford	[illegible]	[illegible]
GAF Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Dynamics	26	[illegible]
Gen Electric	[illegible]	60
Gen Foods	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Mills	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Motors	35	35
Gen Pub Util NY	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Tel Elec	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Tire	[illegible]	[illegible]
Genesco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Georgia Pacific	[illegible]	[illegible]
Getty Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gillette	[illegible]	[illegible]
Goodrich	[illegible]	20
Goodyear	[illegible]	19
Gould Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
Grace	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gt Atlntc & Pacific	[illegible]	[illegible]
Greyhound	[illegible]	[illegible]
Grumman Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gulf Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gulf & West	[illegible]	16
Heinz H. J.	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hercules	[illegible]	20
Honeywell	[illegible]	[illegible]
IC Inds	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ingersoll	[illegible]	[illegible]
Inland Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]
IBM	[illegible]	[illegible]
Int Harvester	[illegible]	[illegible]
INCO	[illegible]	[illegible]
Int Paper	[illegible]	[illegible]
Int Tel Tel	[illegible]	[illegible]
Irving Bank	[illegible]	[illegible]
Jewel Co	31	[illegible]
Jim Walter	[illegible]	[illegible]
Johnson & Johns	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kaiser Alumin	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kerr McGee	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kimberly Clark	[illegible]	[illegible]
K Mart	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kroger	27	[illegible]
L.T.V. Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Litton	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lockheed	[illegible]	52
Lucky Stores	[illegible]	[illegible]
Manuf Hanover	31	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mapco	32	[illegible]
Marathon Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Marine Midland	[illegible]	[illegible]
Martin Marietta	[illegible]	[illegible]
McDonnell	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mead	[illegible]	[illegible]
Merck	85	[illegible]
Minnesota Mng	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mobil Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Monsanto	[illegible]	[illegible]
Morgan J. P.	[illegible]	[illegible]
Motorola	[illegible]	58
NCR Corp	[illegible]	45
NL Industries	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nabisco	33	33
Nat Distillers	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nat Med Ent	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nat Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]
Norfolk West	[illegible]	50
NW Bancorp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Norton Simon	[illegible]	[illegible]
Occidental Pet	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ogden	[illegible]	[illegible]
Olin Corp	[illegible]	20
Owens-Illinois	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pacific Gas Elec	21	[illegible]
Pan Am	[illegible]	[illegible]
Penney J. C.	30	[illegible]
Pennzoil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pepsico	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pfizer	58	[illegible]
Phelps Dodge	[illegible]	[illegible]
Philip Morris	[illegible]	[illegible]
Phillips Petrol	[illegible]	35
Polaroid	[illegible]	[illegible]
PPG Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]

	Feb 18	Feb 17
Procter Gamble	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pub Ser El & Gas	[illegible]	[illegible]
Raytheon	[illegible]	[illegible]
RCA Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Republic Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]
Reynolds Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]
Reynolds Metal	[illegible]	[illegible]
Rockwell Int	[illegible]	[illegible]
Royal Dutch	31	[illegible]
Safeways	[illegible]	[illegible]
St Regis Paper	[illegible]	[illegible]
Santa Fe Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]
SCM	[illegible]	21
Schlumberger	[illegible]	49
Scott Paper	[illegible]	[illegible]
Seagram	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sears Roebuck	[illegible]	[illegible]
Shell Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Shell Trans	[illegible]	[illegible]
Signal Co	[illegible]	[illegible]
Singer	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sony	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sth Cal Edison	[illegible]	[illegible]
Southern Pacific	[illegible]	35
Southern Rly	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sperry Corp	[illegible]	30
Std Oil California	[illegible]	[illegible]
Std Oil Indiana	[illegible]	[illegible]
Std Oil Ohio	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling Drug	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stevens J. P.	[illegible]	16
Sun Comp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Teledyne	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tenneco	[illegible]	28
Texaco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Texas East Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Texas Inst	80	[illegible]
Texas Utilities	20	[illegible]
Textron	[illegible]	[illegible]
TWA	[illegible]	18
Travelers Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
TRW Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
UAL Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
Union Carbide	[illegible]	[illegible]
Union Oil Calif	[illegible]	[illegible]
Un Pacific Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Uniroyal	6	6
United Brands	[illegible]	[illegible]
US Industries	[illegible]	[illegible]
US Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]
Utd Technol	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wachovia	[illegible]	[illegible]
Warner Lambert	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wells Fargo	[illegible]	[illegible]
Westinghse Elec	[illegible]	23
Weyerhauser	[illegible]	[illegible]
Whirlpool	[illegible]	[illegible]
Woolworth	[illegible]	[illegible]
Xerox Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zenith	[illegible]	[illegible]

Canadian Prices

	Feb 18	Feb 17
Abitibi	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alcan Alumin	[illegible]	[illegible]
Algoma Steel	[illegible]	37
Bell Telephone	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cominco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cons Bathurst	15	[illegible]
Gulf Oil	[illegible]	13
Hawker/Sid Can	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hudson Bay Mng	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hudson Bay Oil	46	46
Imasco	41½	41½
Imperial Oil	22	22
Int Pipe	14	14
Mass-Ferguson	[illegible]	[illegible]
Royal Trust	14	14
Seagram	[illegible]	[illegible]
Steel Co	[illegible]	[illegible]
Thomson N 'A'	[illegible]	[illegible]
Walker Hiram	[illegible]	[illegible]
WCT	[illegible]	12

e Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted.



Crisis in football: Special report on problems facing League chairmen at their seminar this weekend . . . and a view from the stands

Why the game must change now or die

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Football has hobbled the last few yards and now stands at the crossroads. As it leans heavily on the signposts for support, the League chairmen can point the way ahead at their seminar this weekend. Should they take the wrong path, the game will limp on aimlessly down some cul-de-sac. Should they take the right road, it can still catch up with reality even at this late juncture.

The journey since the war is littered with milestones. In 1949 when there were fewer competitive interests the total attendances reached a peak of 41,271,414. In 1961 the maximum weekly wage limit of £15 was abolished and the level has since risen by a hundredfold. In 1966 England won the World Cup and the steady fall in gates was temporarily halted.

In 1977 Bob Latchford became the first player to cost £300,000 and within two years the transfer fees had soared through the seven figure barrier. In 1978 the players won for themselves a freedom that frightened clubs into offering the moon to their stars and lengthy contracts which were often indirectly linked to success that could not be guaranteed. Bristol City is a case in point.

Behind these significant landmarks lay a warning backcloth. Although income was decreasing as consistently and as alarmingly as the outgoings were increasing, the industry, blinkered by misguided optimism, declined until recently to bring in either professional advice or to take financial opportunities. "The game", as Alec Stock, a Bournemouth director, said: "has brought us greed, indiscipline and ill manners." In short, it was bleeding to death and the recession only hastened its possible demise.

No one should doubt the gravity of the present picture. Already this season four league clubs — Plymouth Argyle, Bristol City, Oxford United and Halifax Town — have been close to, even minutes away from, extinction. Last Monday's *World in Action* programme on television estimated that football clubs are £60m in debt, that a dozen clubs may go into liquidation before the end of this season and that 51 (*surely a conservative figure*) *need to cut their* wage bills.

If the chairmen remain entrenched now, as they *have* done in the past, then the future will be even bleaker. Two years ago they approved merely three points for a win, Sunday football and an agreement which should now be hardened not to poach another club's manager during the season. This weekend they must *recommend* radical changes which will be put before the Football League at their annual general meeting in June.

> **12-point plan for survival**
>
> 1: Reduce fixtures: Divs 1 and 2 to have 18 and 20 clubs each.
> 2: Regionalization: Divs 3 and 4 to be divided into 3 regions; encourage part-time professionals
> 3: Extend use of grounds; improve facilities.
> 4: Limit transfer fees
> 5: Scale wages: need for *maximum basic wage and* incentive schemes.
> 6: Better deal from TV and pools
> 7: New sponsors: better marketing techniques
> 8: Better management: different roles for team manager and commercial manager
> 9: Give team managers greater security
> 10: Formalize chairmen's "gentlemen's agreement" on poaching
> 11: *Hooligans*: stiffer penalties; clubs should take action
> 12: International success: a priority
> To avoid: Synthetic turf; summer season; winter break; tampering with laws; proliferation of indoor football; setting maximum of players in each club.

The first division should be reduced to 18 teams. Fixture congestion, exacerbated by this winter's bad weather, would be eased and the title would be claimed as it should be by the best team, not necessarily by the side that avoids injuries and is involved only in the championship itself.

Although each first division club would lose gate receipts for the eight missing matches, the remaining 34 fixtures would be of such improved quality that their crowds would undoubtedly rise. Arsenal, for instance, attracted their worst crowd at Highbury for 15 years last Tuesday night even though their win took them up into third place. The visitors were Middlesbrough, almost out of sight at the bottom.

All this would help the international managers, for too long forced to huddle around their telephones on the Saturday night before an international. In a World Cup year when the holders, Argentina, will spend two months in preparation, Britain's three national team *leaders will be* fortunate to have much more than a week to gather together *their squads at the end of* an unbroken nine months' programme.

Cut the second division to 20 clubs and, by inviting six non-league sides to join the outstanding 54, introduce three regionalized third divisions (the North, the Midlands and the South) each also of 20 clubs. Geographical lines need not be drawn in ink and the champions of each section would gain promotion, subject to facilities, to the second division. The bottom two in the first and the bottom three in the second would be relegated.

Re-election would be sought by the bottom two in each of the lower three sections, where all 60 clubs would have the option of going part-time. Although it would be impracticable and inadvisable to restrict the number of players at each club, wage bills, the heaviest cost for all clubs, should be controlled by reintroducing a maximum wage appropriate to each division. Appearance money and bonuses could then be offered to satisfy players' demands.

Transfers have, as few would dispute, also gone beyond the bounds of reason. The system used in Europe related to age and wages, should be applied; half of the agreed fee should be paid *immediately* and the other *half* should be handed over within a year. West Bromwich Albion, for example, are unlikely to receive a penny of, nor gain any interest on, the £2m from Manchester United for Robson and Moses until 1984.

Television companies, whose contracts with the two associations expire next year, should be asked to pay a much more realistic figure (at present £25,000 for each club for four years), to limit coverage, especially edited highlights, and to permit shirt advertize*ments. Television, though,* has helped to broaden interest as well as hindered spectators' desire to attend matches.

The Football League's contract with the pools companies, absurdly underestimated at 2 per cent royalties of gross stakes after the deduction of betting duty, still has four years to run, but should also be examined. Last year it yielded little more than £3m.

It is a startling statistic that clubs open their doors to the public for perhaps forty hours a year and expect to pay their way. Stadia, huge archaic monuments to the past, are grossly underdeveloped and underused pitches, for a start, should be improved and ground sharing then becomes a sensible possibility. Synthetic turf, an experiment worth trying, is not the answer because it changes the nature of the game as fundamentally as would a summer season.

Football has for too long pul*led its cloth cap over its eyes.* This weekend the chairmen must look towards a new dawn. The consequences of not doing so are surely fearful enough. As Jimmy Hill, Coventry City's representative, said this week: "The train stood still for 100 years so it was some achievement to get it going at three miles per hour two years ago. We know at least that the machinery works. Let us hope we can accelerate to 15 mph." Or even faster.

Bob Thomas



Come on you Cobblers. But there are not many to cheer for Northampton.

How the fans stayed away

By Norman Fox

In the last five seasons more than four and a quarter million people have stopped watching Football League matches. In the following survey of 90 clubs (Southport and Workington have dropped out and been replaced by Wigan and Wimbledon), 65 show falling attendances.

The heaviest loss has been suffered by Newcastle United (—19,467). Five seasons ago they were in the first division attracting average gates of more than 35,000. They were the fourth most successful home crowd-pullers in the League. Last season, in the second division, their average gate had slumped to 16,001.

Bristol City's financial problems are directly related to an *average loss of 15,209 through the turnstiles* However, even clubs supposed to be stable and financially well established are showing serious crowd losses.

Manchester United are still the most successful in attracting home crowds but their average attendance has dropped by 8,638. Liverpool have lost 9,673 spectators, or nearly a fifth of their support. Birmingham City have lost a third and for Queen's Park Rangers relegation to the second division has cost them more than half of their supporters.

Division One

Team	1976/77	1980/81	Difference
Manchester United	53,709	45,071	— 8,638
Liverpool	47,220	37,547	— 9,673
Manchester City	40,058	33,587	— 6,471
Newcastle United	35,468	16,001 (Div 2)	—19,467
Aston Villa	34,759	33,641	— 1,118
Sunderland	32,743	26,477	— 6,266
Arsenal	32,671	32,480	— 191
Leeds United	30,530	21,377	— 9,153
Tottenham Hotspur	30,173	30,724	+ 551
Everton	30,046	26,105	— 3,941
Birmingham City	28,538	19,248	— 9,290
Ipswich Town	26,688	24,819	— 1,869
West Ham United	26,063	27,140 (Div 2)	+ 1,077
Derby County	25,068	18,882 (Div 2)	— 6,226
Bristol City	24,974	9,763 (Div 2)	—15,209
West Brom Albion	24,524	20,531	— 4,193
Norwich City	22,304	17,140	— 5,164
Middlesbrough	21,478	16,432	— 5,047
Coventry City	21,434	16,904	— 4,530
Queen's Park Rngrs	21,061	10,936 (Div 2)	—10,125
Stoke City	18,027	15,560	— 2,467
Leicester City	15,806	16,476	+ 670

Division Two

Team	1976/77	1980/81	Difference
Chelsea	30,653	17,887	—12,736
Bolton Wanderers	21,794	9,847	—11,947
Wolverhampton Wdrs	21,326	21,651 (Div 1)	+ 325
Southampton	19,450	21,451 (Div 1)	+ 2,001
Nottingham Forest	18,872	24,483 (Div 1)	+ 5,611
Sheffield United	16,779	12,772 (Div 3)	— 4,007
Fulham	14,589	5,060 (Div 3)	— 9,529
Blackpool	13,635	5,863 (Div 3)	— 7,772
Plymouth Argyle	13,329	6,766 (Div 3)	— 6,563
Cardiff City	12,789	6,767	— 6,022
Burnley	12,173	6,469 (Div 3)	— 5,704
Luton Town	11,814	10,291	— 1,523
Notts County	11,301	9,551	— 1,750
Charlton Athletic	11,057	7,206 (Div 3)	— 3,851
Millwall	10,601	4,494 (Div 3)	— 6,107
Blackburn Rovers	10,129	11,684	+ 1,555
Oldham Athletic	9,944	6,510	— 3,434
Bristol Rovers	8,430	5,929	— 2,501
Hull City	7,932	4,328 (Div 3)	— 3,604
Carlisle United	7,879	4,064 (Div 3)	— 3,815
Hereford United	7,239	2,444 (Div 4)	— 4,795
Orient	6,221	6,076	— 145

Division Three

Team	1976/77	1980/81	Difference
Brighton	20,199	18,924 (Div 1)	+ 1,212
Crystal Palace	16,106	19,280 (Div 1)	+ 3,174
Sheffield Wednesday	13,683	18,524 (Div 2)	+ 4,838
Portsmouth	11,563	13,514	+ 1,951
Wrexham	9,327	6,495 (Div 2)	— 2,832
Mansfield Town	8,439	3,400 (Div 4)	— 5,039
Swindon Town	8,393	6,933	— 1,460
Preston North End	7,987	7,631 (Div 2)	— 356
Lincoln City	7,478	4,718 (Div 4)	— 2,760
Reading	6,781	5,439	— 1,342
Rotherham	6,563	7,855	+ 1,292
Peterborough	5,995	4,137 (Div 4)	— 1,858
Northampton	5,867	2,306 (Div 4)	— 3,561
Walsall	5,497	4,265	— 1,232
Gillingham	5,443	4,676	— 767
Chesterfield	5,321	7,331	+ 2,010
Bury	5,299	2,743 (Div 4)	— 2,556
Oxford United	5,251	4,132	— 1,119
Shrewsbury Town	4,874	5,516 (Div 2)	+ 642
Chester	4,792	2,892	— 1,900
Grimsby Town	4,737	10,961 (Div 2)	+ 6,224
Port Vale	4,356	2,738 (Div 4)	— 1,618
Tranmere Rovers	3,251	1,691 (Div 4)	— 1,560
York City	3,130	2,245 (Div 4)	— 885

Division Four

Team	1976/77	1980/81	Difference
Huddersfield Town	5,148	11,548 (Div 3)	+ 6,400
Watford	6,035	13,108 (Div 2)	+ 7,073
Bradford City	5,630	2,858	— 2,772
Southend	5,551	6,095	+ 544
Swansea City	5,548	13,143 (Div 2)	+ 7,595
Barnsley	5,528	12,800 (Div 3)	+ 7,272
Brentford	5,120	6,752 (Div 3)	+ 1,632
Colchester United	4,850	2,842 (Div 3)	— 2,008
Doncaster Rovers	4,630	5,412	+ 782
Exeter City	4,623	4,559 (Div 3)	— 64
Cambridge United	4,445	5,796 (Div 2)	+ 1,351
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	— 1,722
Bournemouth	4,057	2,335	— 655
Aldershot	3,736	2,966	— 770
Scunthorpe United	3,423	2,297	— 1,126
Torquay United	3,257	2,350	— 907
Darlington	2,743	2,537	— 206
Newport County	2,811	5,883 (Div 3)	+ 3,072
Crewe Alexandra	2,379	2,909	+ 530
Halifax Town	2,340	1,924	— 416
Hartlepool	1,911	3,115	+ 1,204
Rochdale	1,744	2,460	+ 716
Southport	1,638		
Workington	1,333		
Wigan		4,434	
Wimbledon		2,484	

Great divide between rich and poor clubs

By Hunter Davies

I went on a tour of Spurs' new stand last week and kept thinking about Disraeli. Football these days is Two Nations. Nowhere can you see it more clearly than at Tottenham Hotspur.

The imbalance amongst clubs is well publicised. Some are going bankrupt while others can spend £1m on one player. The difference between the players' lives is equally great. Glen Hoddle, aged 24, lives in his own £100,000 house and can earn £50,000 a year from football. Down in the fourth division some of his fellow professionals are struggling on £5,000 a year, hoping for part-time work to pay the rent.

But the contrast in how fans are treated is less well known. Even inside the same club, the differences are astonishing. Last Saturday I queued for an hour to get into Spurs, then stood in squalor, exposed to the elements, unable to move and find a lavatory, although that would be equally squalid, or find any refreshments, as that *would* mean another queue and missing half the match.

It was a terrific game. No fan has any moans when the team is doing well. Most real fans *prefer* to stand shoulder to shoulder in the primitive terraces, part of the cheers and the jeers, sharing communally in the excitement. We would like a bit more loving, a little more attention paid to our basic needs, but most of us do not want to be hermetically sealed behind plate glass windows, watching the match *in our own padded box.*

That is the way the game is going, at least at the top end of the market. Spurs' new stand is the most modern, the most luxurious in Britain. Clubs who have created new stands and installed luxury boxes include Manchester United, Coventry City, Nottingham Forest, Aston Villa, West Bromwich Albion, Queen's Park Rangers, Leicester City, Fulham and Orient. All of them, so they say, needed to create these special boxes, and get in some vital "up-front" money, otherwise they could not have built a new stand in the first place.

If you hurry, there are some boxes at Spurs still for sale. At only £30,000 each. For this price, you can have an eight-seater box for the next three years for you and your friends, or your clients. You can sit in a gold armchair and have the use of a cocktail cabinet, fridge, small kitchen and your own hostess. Each *of the 72 boxes also has* its own phone and colour TV.

Drinks and meals cost extra, about £9 for a four course lunch served in your box. You can also use the box holders' lounge which is about the same size and style, as the reception area of a medium sized Hilton hotel.

As I was standing in an outer office, waiting to talk to the Spurs commercial manager, Mike Lewis, there was a call from the Dorchester Hotel to say that an Arab Prince wanted a box for Saturday. It's Manchester City tomorrow, not the very best of the season's attractions, so a box for that match is only £550. The scale, for a one-off match, goes from £475 to £600.

"We've sold 34 out of the 72 boxes so far" said Mr Lewis. "I think that's a better record than any other club at the time of their opening."

The Spurs' new stand was officially opened two weeks ago, when the ceremony was performed by Sir Stanley Rous. Mostly big companies have paid out the required £30,000, on the nail, and they include Barclays Bank, Beecham's Foods, National Giro, Mecca and Tesco, all of whom have their name plates at the entrance hall. Last week, a local pub, the Railway Tavern, also got their name up, just for one match, for £600. One firm, Brown and Jackson, surprised them all by buying a 21-year lease on a box. They see it as an investment.

Mr Lewis has seen for himself *how the other half lives in* football. He comes from Newport and after several years as a fund-raiser for children's charities he joined his local club in 1976, his first job in football, to try to help them from going bankrupt.

"My first job at Newport was to go and get a ball for the lads to play with. They'd painted up all the old boys so often they were beginning to look like rugby balls. The refs used to look at our ball on a match day, give a wink, and pass it as new for the match itself. They knew we couldn't afford anything better."

No sports shop in Newport would help because the club had run up so many debts. "I had to go to Ebbw Vale, and find a shop who didn't know about us," Mr Lewis said.

When Mr Lewis arrived as commercial manager four years ago, Spurs' income from sponsorship, lotteries, etc., was £40,000. This year they should earn £1.1m. A club which can pull in that sort of money must have a healthy future.

When poor old Chelsea invested their all in a brave new stand, the team collapsed. By sheer coincidence, the present Spurs team is their most attractive and most successful of any in the last 15 years. Think what a white elephant that £4.5m stand could have been.

The club now has two shops just outside the ground, full of souvenirs for the fans. This year they will make a £50,000 profit on a £380,000 turnover. The club has recently begun its own travel agency, in which football trips play only a secondary part. Lotteries, advertising and sponsorship made £282,000 last year.

For one part of the football nation, there's a lot of money around. If a team is successful.

The chairmen

'Players would not agree to take less money if relegated'

Stephen Kew invented the chairmen's seminar but he will not be there this weekend. He resigned some two months ago from his position at Bristol City, the club that became the first to suffer from the freedom of contract and almost went *into liquidation because of it.* Four years ago City's Gary Collier was the first player to take advantage of the system when he decided to move to Coventry City. An independent tribunal set the transfer fee at £350,000.

Mr Kew's opposite number at the tribunal was Jimmy Hill. Later they discussed the idea of talking rather than making speeches and two years later the first seminar took place. Bristol were then in the first division with six players on lengthy contracts. Although their wages remained constant, the club slid down two divisions in two years. Hence, eventually, the Ashton Gate eight saga.

"Football *is* an instant business, like coffee", Mr Kew says. "Supporters judge teams on Saturday results. We have to take risks and ours paid off when we rose to the top. It also failed when we came don but it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.

"I championed Alan Dicks, our manager, and when he came to us and said we must keep what we've got because we haven't any money, we agreed to offer these long contracts.



Kew: "It's an instant business like coffee."

Who would have guessed that we were then to do so badly? Besides, the players wouldn't have agreed to take less money if the team was relegated. Perhaps people can learn from our lesson. The Professional Footballers Association and the League ought to meet in a spirit of tolerance and players ought to accept that, even *though it may not be their* fault, their wages are decreased if they go down.

"I am mindful, though, that other people in the entertainment business earn enormous sums. I would like to see the richer clubs adopting poorer ones. There must be more cooperation. I instituted the idea of ground sharing at Bristol and it is a dream come true. It must be one of the answers for the future. I think, though, that the two Bristols might become one club.

"Transfers have begun to level out and will continue to do so. I can't see any more £1m fees. They do at least keep the money in the game but it is important that the whole amount be paid immediately. I know we still owe Newcastle United for some of Harford's transfer fee but we were owed money ourselves.

"We were accused of mismanagement at Bristol. We were also criticized for not buying players. Alan Dicks kept on suggesting people he wanted to get but when we approached the bank manager, he said we couldn't afford it. Then we were criticized for buying players. We couldn't win either way.

"We can produce the best of ideas in the boardroom but principles go out of the window once people are in power. Then they become the most selfish people in the world.

"I think football will survive, though, as long as players and managers, *in the* widest sense, agree to see the game flourish. Captains should be invited to board meetings, for instance, and there should be more consultations. At the moment the relationship between players and directors is too distant. But this country needs football. It is part of the establishment. Like *The Times.*" SJ

Jimmy Hill
Coventry City

"The downward trend in attendances has continued since the chairmen last met and we can't even say whether we've hit *the* bottom yet. The seminar is 100 times more important than the last one. Instead of there being 92 clubs spread across the country, we might soon have just 16.

"It is no use merely pruning and attacking the periphery. To talk about economising and subsidising is to avoid dealing *with the central* problem. We must be more positive. We need to make Saturday afternoons more enjoyable, then market the product and prove that it is more enjoyable. We may be given a lifeline this weekend.

Ernie Clay
Fulham

"Until 1981, the management committee raped the game even more than Afghanistan was. They showed no foresight in negotiating the pools contract and threw away a fortune. Given 10 per cent of an annual £395m turnover and we could be playing behind closed doors if we wanted to.

"The committee has built a Kremlin in our democratic society. They should leave after six consecutive years in office and retire at the age of 65. We need fresh water *in* the stagnant pool. Reduce the league as a whole and force club directors to commit themselves financially. Then they can't fake heart attacks or just resign.

Bert Millichip
West Bromwich Albion

"We must look at the structure of the league but I'm not satisfied that a reduction of clubs would solve the problem. By reducing income, you would have to reduce expenditure as well. Staff wold have to be cut and also salaries.

"The game is lacking in excitement and entertainment. I think television has a lot to answer for. Too much exposure of the exciting moments detract from the general picture of the game. Spectators are naturally disappointed because they expect to see lots of goals. I would be totally against the coverage of football at lunchtime on Saturdays".

The manager

'Bring in the professionals to balance the books'

Malcolm Macdonald, of Fulham and one of the youngest managers in the Football League, has a remarkable vision of the future. It is built in the shape of a pyramid. First division sides, he feels, are held back by those lower down and each of the 92 clubs should, like water, be allowed *to find their own level.*

"The home side should keep all the gate receipts", he says. "Fifty per cent of the transfer fees should be paid straightaway, the rest within a year. Clubs would then discover how viable they are. Players should receive a limited basic wage, equal to their value in the reserves, and then be given an incentive by being offered bonuses and appearance money.

"The freedom of contract brought with it a Catch-22. To hold on to players, managers are forced to offer them rich and lengthy contracts which encourage apathy. If they don't they risk losing them. But to be able to afford these amounts, they may have to sell. John Neal must have cried for six months when he sold that *Middlesbrough midfield* of Armstrong, Johnston and Proctor. What a fabulous unit they could have been.

"If a club cannot afford to stay in the first division, it should not be there. That would improve the standard at the top and those who want to join should have to prove to the league that they can cope before being promoted. Clubs can reduce their playing staff and increase admission prices because, after all, the public must pay for success.

Macdonald: "Home side should keep gate receipts".

"Football clubs must be run in a professional way. All the directors should receive a share of the profits but do they treat this game as they would their own business? Too often they treat the position as a status symbol. They show ego, heart, ambition, idiocy at times and a lack of knowledge.

"A manager paints a rosy picture, he has to. He will say he needs £200,000 to buy two players and they react like schoolboys and trot off to the bank manager. When results don't go well, he will say that he needs just one more player to complete the side. Another £100,000 would fix it. They don't realize that relegation can knock £100,000 off the value of each player, gates drop and you're still left with the same outgoings.

"We have four managers here in charge of finance, commerce, football and rugby league as well as the chairman.

"We must all work harder and either entertain or get out. When I find I am looking for 0—0 draws, then I'll retire.

"There is no point in changing the laws. The three points for a win has not made any difference. I worked out last season's tables and I think there would have been only one change in the promotion issues. The summer idea is lovely. I would like to see it tried for perhaps a year but I can't see it happening. We don't like change in this country, do we?"

He said: "It was sad that the league did *not* go to Bristol City's assistance. It was the attitude of an ostrich hiding in the sand. We seem to have this self-destruct button within the game. And every so often we press it. Otherwise we start getting the shakes." S.J.

Directors blamed for apathy

Football managers continue to be made the scapegoats in an ailing industry and players are accused of greed, but a younger generation of officials is claiming that the real culprits are directors

While some clubs are trying to introduce men of commercial experience and imagination, the majority seem to remain dominated by directors of limited vision.

Among the new generation of "executives" attempting to use seminars and other sports meetings to bring football to its senses is John Smith, of Luton Town, a club of obvious limitations but practical enough to have survived a frightening financial crisis.

Mr Smith said yesterday: "The most important issue should be the accountability of directors. It is *the directors* who are responsible. They should be providing the game with policies *instead* of allowing clubs to go on living their hand to mouth existence".

He was concerned about the integrity of those who control the destiny of football. "We should provide a better public image", he said. "In this we fail terribly. The public are particularly tired of players remonstrations."

Mr Smith advocated a short term related policy on wages, income and other receipts with a percentage of the League's income used for promoting the game as a whole. He would not interfere with transfer fees but would, temporarily, stop the importing of players because the transfer money did not stay within the League. He did not believe the majority of foreign players made a beneficial contribution.

In the longer term he hoped to see clubs become more community based with more local authorities adopting the continental system of taking over and leasing grounds to clubs.

The Professional Footballers' Association secretary, Gordon Taylor, is another young administrator opposed to the idea that players demands are the main cause of football's ills. He blamed the transfer system and advocated a sliding scale related to the age, previous salary and experience of the player. NF

A closed door could open for those outside

By Paul Newman

The door to the Football League through which just four new members have passed in the last 19 years could soon spring open for up to a dozen of the leading clubs in the non-League game.

The meeting of the League chairmen in Solihull this weekend to discuss football's problems is almost certain to consider the restructuring and possibly expansion of the four divisions. Although it was only four months ago that the third and fourth division clubs rejected a regionalization plan which would have taken in six new clubs, the deepening crisis in the game has again aroused talk of the need for change.

If new blood is needed — perhaps to help form two regionalized sections of the fourth division — there will be no shortage of clubs both willing and able to step up. With few exceptions, they play in the national Alliance Premier League.

Scarborough, Boston United, Altrincham, Yeovil Town, Bath City, Worcester City, Weymouth, Kettering Town, Stafford Rangers, Maidstone United, Telford United and Barrow (who were voted out of the League ten years ago) already have facilities up to Football League standard. Runcorn, Enfield, Northwich Victoria and Dagenham could all reach that standard with some ground improvements. Other contenders would include Sutton United and Wycombe Wanderers from the Isthmian League and Blyth Spartans from the Northern League.

Football League membership, which entitles clubs to shares of pools and television money, is worth up to £90,000 a year. The only share-out the Alliance clubs receive is £1,000 a year from the pools companies, yet their healthy finances are the envy of many Football League clubs.

Scarborough made £106,000 profit last year and have recently spent £500,000 on their ground. They have a new stand, new floodlights and plans for an all-seated stadium. The players change in carpeted dressing rooms with their own colour televisions.

Boston United, who have already made big profits in recent years, have an equally impressive ground, and Altrincham, Maidstone, Yeovil, Bath, Worcester and Runcorn have all invested heavily in improved facilities. Kettering, although in financial difficulties, has a magnificent stand which would be the pride of most fourth division clubs. Telford has £140,000 waiting to be spent on ground improvements.

All have thriving social clubs, lotteries and other fund-raising activities — Scarborough even has a shop in the town from which to promote their schemes — and do not have to rely on gate money. If they were in the Football League attendances would provide good additional income.

The crucial difference between Alliance and League clubs is that the former are all part-time. Fourth division clubs with full-time players pay out up to £250,000 a year in wages. The average annual wage bill in the Alliance League is little more than a fifth of that figure.

Even wealthy Scarborough paid out only £90,000 in wages last year.

Altrincham and Yeovil have already experienced the dangers of higher wage bills. As successful members of the Northern Premier and Southern League they made healthy profits. When they became founder members of the Alliance League three years ago, both clubs spent more on wages in the hope of attracting better players who could win them "promotion" to the Football League.

The result was that both clubs made running loses for the first time in many years and have since had to cut back. Noel White, Altrincham's chairman, said that being part-time was their "only salvation". Many players would oppose any plan to go full-time. Some can already earn more than £100 a week from the game to add to their pay packets from full-time jobs.

It is ironic that at a time when unacceptable travel costs are said to be a reason for regionalizing the fourth division, the Alliance clubs are prospering in their own national league. Peter Hunter, the Alliance secretary, said: "Even if some of our clubs join a regionalized fourth division, we will remain a national league because we don't see the travelling as a problem".

Most Alliance clubs agree, however, that regionalization would be a good idea. What the Alliance clubs want above all is a system of regular promotion and relegation between the two leagues. Gerald Smith, Telford's chairman, said: "If we come through the door we want it to remain open behind us".

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Cricket

Gower makes a firm stand among the early ruins

From Richard Streeton
Colombo, Feb 17

English feathers were distinctly ruffled by Sri Lanka on the second day of the Test match here today though the final outcome was not as worrying as it might have been. In stifling heat and sunshine Sri Lanka stretched their total to 218 and England were 186 for five at the close, with an innings of artistry and authority from Gower providing the backbone. The pitch remains reliable and this inaugural Test for Sri Lanka is proving to be a marvellous game of cricket. Tomorrow is a rest day.

Goodness knows what sort of pot-pourri England might have found themselves in if a sharp chance offered by Fletcher, as soon as he came in, had been accepted. It would have left England 44 for four in the eleventh over with their last two front-rank batsmen at the wicket.

After all the advance propaganda about Sri Lanka's spinners, it proved to be the 22-year-old fast bowler Asantha de Mel, who was responsible for leaving England's early batting in ruins. He dismissed Cook, Tavaré and Gooch in a three-for-four spell of seven balls that had the spectators in uproar.

Gower, from his arrival, was at his best: Fletcher settled down to a degree after his initial mistake; Botham stayed 40 minutes and Taylor lasted through the closing 50 minutes.

Gower, through all this, disciplined himself perfectly and has not yet given a chance to hand, through three hours 50 minutes of determined concentration. His strokes including a six and ten fours. It was an innings of great application which, at the same time, yielded nothing in terms of effortless timing and grace.

England had an hour's batting before lunch and put themselves in a terrible tangle in the last 25 minutes before the interval. Gooch began with that measure of assurance which is often the prelude to a commanding innings. He drove fours against both opening bowlers and hit D S de Silva for two more on either side of the wicket when the spinner joined the attack for the eighth over. Cook, too, seemed to be completely relaxed before his dismissal set the alarm bells ringing.

Cook tried to steer a widish ball from de Mel through the slips and gave Gully a straightforward catch at knee height. Two balls later Tavaré played over a yorker and was bowled. Gower drove a boundary through the covers before the over was completed. In de Mel's next over Gooch, who had struck five fours already, tried to hit an inswinger



Gower: a disciplined innings

through midwicket, failed to connect properly, and was given out leg-before.

Gooch either thought he had nicked the ball on to his pads or that the ball was going to miss leg stump. The only certain fact was that he took a long time before moving off, an unworthy case of dissent.

Fletcher flicked his second ball to the square leg boundary and was then dropped by D S de Silva at forward short leg fending off a bumper. The fieldsmen seemed to have the ball in his hands but was unable to retain it as he tumbled forward. After lunch de Mel could not maintain the same thrust and Gower swung him for a splendid six over square leg. Though Gower had a fright against D S de Silva when he nearly played on, he looked more at ease than Fletcher as Sri Lanka shuffled their three spinners for most of the afternoon.

None of them achieved a great deal of turn, with Ajit de Silva, the left-arm bowler, achieving the most from the same end that Underwood used. D S de Silva is a Chandrasekhar, rather than an Intikhab Alam, bowling brisk top spin and googlies predominantly rather than leg breaks. Kaluperuma, the off-spinner, looked a far better bowler than he did in the one-day international on Saturday. Changes of pace and trajectory are his main armoury and he was always economical.

England reached 100 in the 33rd over and it was soon afterwards that Fletcher began to struggle more than ever against Ajit de Silva. Appeals for leg-before and a legside catch by the wicketkeeper failed from successive balls before the bowler finally claimed his reward. Fletcher stretched forward and swept a ball on the full pitch and Warnapura held a good catch low down at deep square leg, next to the umpire. Like Indian umpires the Sri Lanka officials stand an extraordinarily long way back from the action at the non bowling end.

Fletcher had shared an important fourth wicket stand worth 80 in 29 overs. Botham's arrival was marked by the usual rapturous reception from the crowd but he was still clad in the mantle of maturity that he has been forced to wear so often in recent weeks. By tea he did hit Ajit de Silva for two fours but the interval score of 130 for four was hardly conducive to any ease of mind in the England dressing room.

Sri Lanka brought back de Mel after tea. It must be a thankless business trying to bowl fast on the local pitches but he has a big heart and he managed to dig a ball in a bit short and Botham played on as he tried to pull it wide of mid-on. England were still 67 behind the Sri Lankan total. Taylor was almost caught at short leg against de Mel but Gower in his most volatile mood, especially to balls on his legs, England finished within reach of the necessary advantage on first innings.

SRI LANKA: First innings
[illegible]

ENGLAND: First innings
[illegible]

Umpires: H C Felsinger and K T Francis

Smith, Gifford to join England's selectors

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

It seems certain that, of last year's England selectors, only Alec Bedser will survive when the Test and County Cricket Board hold their spring meeting at Lord's on March 9. John Edrich has already resigned, "for business reasons", and a working party of the Board's cricket committee is to recommend that Brian Close and Charles Elliott should be replaced by Alan Smith and Norman Gifford.

Since the Board's corresponding meeting one year ago, it has been known that Peter May was to become chairman of selectors, probably for a four-year period, starting in 1982. With no other nominations to come from among nominations to come from among the counties, the working party's plans are unlikely to be obstructed.

Such wholesale changes are unusual. You could say that the knives have been out, in spite of England's successful retention of the Ashes in 1981. Elliott has been a selector since 1975 and Close since 1979. Edrich, who replaced the late Ken Barrington, served only for last season.

For A. C. Smith, it will be a return to the panel. He was on it from 1969 to 1974, when he gave up on becoming assistant secretary of Warwickshire. Since 1976 he has been [secretary], and selectors are expected to watch no less cricket now than they were ten years go. No doubt, though, Smith has found ways and means of delegating some of his duties. Anyway, his office at Edgbaston overlooks the ground, when the sight screen is not in the way.

One day, I hope, David Brown, who manages Warwickshire, will himself do a turn as a selector, but there is plenty of time for that. The idea, I believe, is to return to limiting the period for which selectors are expected to serve.

Gifford would be the first active player to join the panel, other than the appointed England captain, since Smith. Nearly 42, he is approaching the end of his career with Worcestershire, but he will continue to play for them when available.

He did well as a sort of "under professional" in Tony Lewis's England side to India and Pakistan in 1972-73, and although that was his only tour, he has a good eye for the game.

If it is a pity that the north are not to be represented on the committee, it is an unmitigated mercy that the whole party of messrs Douglas Insole (chairman), George Mann, May and Tony Brown are not to recommend the appointment of a supremo to run the England cricket side in the same was as Ron Greenwood has control of the footballers.

Anyone who had wanted such a job would almost certainly have been wrong for it, and anyone who might just possibly have made a success of it would have been unlikely to want it.

The most recent Yorkshiremen, other than Close, to choose the England team were Len Hutton and Billy Sutcliffe; the last Lancastrian was Cyril Washbrook. Now we have no one north of the Trent. Living in Nottingham as he does, Elliott's parish used to encompass the Pennines. He was on the Derbyshire committee too—and when England were in Australia or West Indies, he usually turned up there as well.

It is no sinecure being a selector. Who, to start with, would you appoint as England's captain if you were one of them, and this were the end of May?

Turner stands down for Neale

Philip Neale, aged 27, is to captain Worcestershire this summer. He succeeds the New Zealander Glenn Turner, who was in charge for the first time last season.

Turner, who scored 98 first-class hundreds, will be returning to play for Worcestershire this summer but has advised the county that, as it is almost certain to be his last year, he felt it would be in Worcestershire's better interests if he stood down.

□ Members of Yorkshire, who have not won a trophy since 1969, are being asked whether they want to change the present policy of playing only Yorkshire-born cricketers.

Yorkshire have always refused to consider employing overseas players and the committee have stuck rigidly to the policy, using only players qualified by birth.

The annual report reveals a profit of £25,664, an increase of nearly £6,000. The most significant increase in income was from the TCCB. This rose by more than £55,000 to £203,377.

All levels of subscription are to be increased because the committee expect a considerable reduction in income from Test matches in 1982.

Approximately £40,000 has been allocated to Headingley and £3,000 to Scarborough towards ground improvements. It is the committee's policy to improve Headingley facilities as quickly as finance allows in order to maintain permanent test match status.

□ At Perth Australia were 140 for three in reply to Pakistan's first innings total of 419 (Salim Malik 102). Tankie Ahmed 68, Patni 67, Anil Dalpat 66) at the close of the second day of the third under-19 international yesterday.

Honour for Barnes

Brian Barnes was yesterday named White Horse Golf Personality of the year for 1981.

Football



Smiles all round . . . for Ron Saunders (right) and his new chairman Kevin Coombs of Birmingham City.

Villa's loss becomes Birmingham's gain

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Ron Saunders will be watching his reigning champions again sooner than he might have had reason to expect. Ten days after resigning from his post at Aston Villa, he yesterday agreed in principle to become the manager of Birmingham City. The league visitors at St Andrews tomorrow are, of all people, Aston Villa.

Mr Saunders, though, will not be leading the side. After meeting Birmingham's chairman, Keith Coombs, and the vice-chairman, Jack Wiseman, he announced that he had been offered a three-year "roll-over" contract. It stipulates that three years notice be given and is the same as the contract he signed at Aston Villa.

Mr Saunders said that the final formalities were in the hands of solicitors and accountants and, subject to completion of the details, he would be taking charge on Monday. Norman Bodell, acting as manager since Jim Smith was suddenly dismissed last Monday, will be in charge of the side for the local derby.

The diplomatic move has saved Mr Saunders from a potentially awkward afternoon but the managerial move may yet cause embarrassment in an area that has been the centre of a bewildering series of changes. All six central Midlands clubs — West Bromwich Albion, Coventry City, Wolverhampton Wanderers, and Walsall are the others—have now welcomed a new leader since the end of last season.

Mr Saunders, who admitted that he would probably go into the dressing room "for a minute" before the game, added: "The Villa supporters and players must understand my reasons for leaving. I will have overall control here. Birmingham have not had much success but their potential is enormous. They could be described as the sleeping giant. My job is to put them on top of the pile."

Orient ask Taylor to leave

By Stuart Jones

Tommy Taylor, the Orient captain, who threw the ball at a linesman during their FA Cup fifth round defeat by Crystal Palace on Tuesday night, was yesterday told to leave the club. Ken Knighton, the manager, said: "I haven't sacked him but I told him that, in the best interests of the club and player, it would be better if we parted company."

He added: "It is true that he deliberately threw the ball at a linesman and I am not prepared to tolerate that sort of behaviour from one of my players. But that is not the sole reason for today's move. As far as I am concerned, he has played his last game for the club but I have not given him a free transfer. He is free to talk to any club he wants and, if he can agree terms, they can approach us."

Taylor, aged 30, began his League career at Orient and rejoined them from West Ham United, with whom he won an FA Cup winners medal in 1975, for a fee of £80,000 three years ago. He has played in all 31 of Orient's matches this season.

"I walked into the club," Taylor said, "and the manager told me I had cost Orient a place in the last eight of the Cup and that he did not want me at the ground again. Of course, I was hurt and surprised. I shall be contacting Gordon Taylor, the PFA's secretary, in the morning to ask for his advice." Taylor will continue to be paid until he moves and will also receive compensation for the remaining two and a half years of his contract.

Greenwood backs grass

The England manager, Ron Greenwood, yesterday came out in favour of grass playing surfaces. He gave his backing to a new natural grass pitch, Cellsystem, being pioneered in this country by Chipman Ltd, of which Denis Thatcher is chairman. The first pitch was laid by Southwark Council at the Mellish sports ground in Surrey Docks.

Mr Greenwood watched Millwall's players training on it yesterday and said: "If people come up with ideas like this, we have a strong platform from which to fight the artificial pitch." This system of drainage and irrigation produces stronger, more deeper-rooted grass and prevents waterlogged and bone-hard grounds at a cost of £100,000.

● Supporters of third division Chester have offered to buy a new player—and the club have agreed to provide his weekly wages. The fans will raise up to £20,000 for their hard-up club, which is losing over £2,000 a week.

● Third division Preston North End, whose crowds have increased by 1,500 under the new management of Gordon Lee, are cutting admission prices by 50p in an effort to continue their revival.

● Jimmy Nicholl was back in training at Manchester United yesterday after his transfer to Sunderland had broken down. Sunderland could not find the money for the £250,000 transfer.

Northern League

[illegible]

Alliance Premier League

[illegible]

Today's fixtures

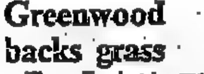
[illegible]

RUGBY UNION: Coventry v Northampton; Moseley v Abertillery. RUGBY LEAGUE: Division two: Batley v Dewsbury. RACKETS: Noel Bruce Cup (Queen's Club).

BELGIAN: [illegible]

FRENCH: [illegible]

Tony Weaver



No loneliness for these long distance runners (from left): Joyce Smith, Carol Gould, Suzan Hassan, Gillian Burley, Julie Barleycorn, preparing for the women's marathon.

Council to meet the bill for drug tests

By Iain Mackenzie

The Scottish Sports Council is to pay the full cost of drug testing for governing bodies of sport in Scotland, starting on April 1 this year.

Ken Hutchison, the council's chief executive, said yesterday: "For several years we have been offering grants towards the cost of drug testing but so far only two sports, athletics and cycling, have taken advantage. We believe there are two main reasons for this.

"First, although performances in sport can be improved unfairly through the use of drugs, it is only in a few sports that firm evidence of drug abuse is available. Second, without such evidence many governing bodies are reluctant to devote even a small part of their limited resources to the problem. By increasing the grants to 100 per cent, we hope that more governing bodies will be encouraged to take part, if only to confirm their belief that their sport is free of drug abuse."

An added incentive is that transportation costs of samples to and from Chelsea College in London, where testing takes place, will be met by the council. The SSC hopes that at least a dozen sports will take advantage of the new offer. Although the council does not normally grant-aid to professional sport, it has acceded to a request from the Highland Games Association, which organizes the 13 professional Highland Games events, to be included in the scheme for a trial three-year period.

Rackets

Eton's instinct for survival

By Roy McKelvie

Eton have a survival instinct. On Tuesday a pair of Etonians won a match by 17—15 in the final game in the Noel Bruce Cup at Queen's Club. On Wednesday another pair, Tom Pugh and David Norman, warded off the young Marlburians, David Watson and Christopher Worlidge, by 17—14, 17—16, 14—16, 7—15, 15—4, 15—5 in what was for quality and pace, the best match yet seen in the event.

Watson and Worlidge in 1976 won the schools championship for Marlborough, beating Malvern in the final after training by three games to love and 3—12. Last night they threatened to perform a similar feat. When, after losing the first two desperately close games, they made it 2—2, the odds physically were in their favour.

Yet the older pair, battle-hardened from years of competitive play, managed to outlive their young rivals as much because of their experience as the lack of it and mental stamina on the part of the Marlburians.

SECOND ROUND: Winchester I (R H Sutton and P G Seabrook) beat Tonbridge V (N Hawkins and M J D Evan...) [illegible]; Eton II (C T M Pugh and D Norman) beat Marlborough I (D K Watson and C E Worlidge) 17—14, 17—16, 14—16, 7—15, 15—4, 15—5; Harrow II (A Crawley and A Crosby) beat Haileybury II (R F Hollington and S R Kyrndal) 15—8, 15—12, 15—1, 15—7.

Harrow I (C J Hue Williams and J A N Prenn) beat Marlborough II (M P Bryan and A J Naylor) 15—[illegible], 15—[illegible], 17—3, [illegible].

Lendl wins again

Top-seeded Ivan Lendl defeated unseeded Bob Lutz 7—5, 6—1 in the second round of the $200,000 (£105,000) tennis classic at the La Quinta Hotel tennis club, Palm Springs. It was his 42nd consecutive victory on the pro tennis circuit. John Lloyd beat the No. 11 seed Eddie Dibbs 6—2, 6—1.

Boxing

Reunion helps McKenzie to get in shape

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

It was sensible of Clinton McKenzie to settle his differences with his manager, George Francis, and go back home to the Wellington gym in Highgate to finish off his preparation for his lightweight title defence against Steve Early, of Coventry, tonight at the Bloomsbury Centre, London.

Thanks to the reunion, McKenzie has put in some hard work with Mr Francis's world-class Africans who are invaluable to those who train with them. Charm Chiteule, of Zambia, and John Mugabe, of Uganda, have sharpened McKenzie up and the team are now raring to go for Saoul Mamby's world title, though Early will have something to say about that.

Early is a tough and dogged fighter and is confident that he will lift the title. He looked good beating the former world lightweight champion, Ken Buchanan, on points in an eliminator at Birmingham. But he is one-paced and being persistent keeps on doing the same thing over and over again, which will be to McKenzie's advantage of course.

As Early is usually extremely fit and McKenzie has a tendency to flag, the contender could end McKenzie's hopes of having an easy night for a change after all the rousing finishes to his previous title bouts.

Mr Francis realizes that this one will be no different. "Boxing's a bit dull at the moment and Clinton could liven it up", he said.

If McKenzie pleases tonight's promoter, Frank Warren, he may be prompted to stage the European title bout at the Bloomsbury Centre. McKenzie would then at least begin to see some big money for all the knocks he has had to take in those epic battles.

Rugby Union

Irish find a blend for sport and politics

From an Irish Rugby Correspondent
Dublin, Feb 18

A cartoon in a Dublin newspaper summed up the current debate in Ireland rather neatly. It showed a government supporter demanding of the opposition, as they debated the next general election: "How many matches did we win when your crowd were in power?" The answer, of course, is none; all matches were lost last year when the "other crowd" were in government.

With all Ireland agog in hopes of beating Scotland at Lansdowne Road on Saturday to secure the triple crown for the first time in 33 years, sport has become mixed up with politics. For instance, one Dublin bookmaker was laying odds on a FitzGerald double, involving clients on their fortunes on Garret FitzGerald's returning to power in government and his namesake, Ciaran Fitzgerald, leading the Irish rugby team to the triple crown.

What is beyond argument is that the Irish rugby team is more popular than any combination of political parties. After victories over Wales and England, nobody will hear of defeat by Scotland and suddenly the whole of Ireland wants to be at Lansdowne Road for the big occasion. A morning radio programme auctioned two entrance tickets (face value £2.50) for £150. There are stories of people offering anything from £100 to £200 for a place in the stands, all tickets having been sold long ago.

Shortage of match tickets at the 15,000 capacity stadium is nothing new. The scenario for any international match there is much like it is at Twickenham, Cardiff or Murrayfield, at attempt to squeeze a quart into a pint pot. But what makes tomorrow's match different from most is that the Irish, with much justification, believe they have an excellent chance of winning. They have succeeded in clinching the triple crown only four times, twice in the 1890's and twice in the late 1940's.

Most of those who played in the winning teams of 1948 and 1949 are alive and have been much quoted on Irish radio, television and in the newspapers. Jack Kyle, the outstanding flyhalf who is now a surgeon in Zambia, and Bill McKay, a general practitioner in Gisborne, New Zealand, have had their views solicited. Karl Mullen, the captain of those teams, and Jim McCarthy, who scored the winning try in Swansea in 1949, have all been reintroduced to the Irish public.

Rugby is a minority game in Ireland. There are many more adherents of Gaelic football and hurling, with the triple crown looming, every one has become an expert. Another factor that brings such attention to the Irish rugby team is that it is composed of players from north and south, unlike soccer, where there are two international sides. With the main political parties promising severe budgets and a general tightening of belts after some years of profligacy, a triple crown victory would provide a tremendous lift to morale, not unlike that which heartened England following the World Cup triumph of 1966.

Ringland pulls out

Trevor Ringland, the Queen's University wing threequarter, yesterday withdrew from Ireland's side to meet Scotland. Keith Crossan, the 22-year-old Instonian wing, wins his first cap as deputy. Ringland has been under treatment for the past 10 days after breaking a bone in his left hand while playing for his club.

His withdrawal means a reshuffle in the Irish threequarter line. Crossan will play on the left wing; Moss Finn switches to the right for Ringland.

Duncan Wilson, of Boroughmuir, has been brought into the Scottish squad. He replaces Bryan Gossman, of West of Scotland, whose wife is expecting a baby and the player has been given "leave of absence".

A new era opens for England in Paris

From Peter West
Rugby Correspondent
Paris, Feb 18

The England rugby squad trained on the plush acres of the Racing Club de France near Versailles this afternoon. They were left in no doubt by their chairman of selectors, their coach and their new captain about the importance of the game at Parc des Princes on Saturday.

The international against France will be the first in a new era. When Bill Beaumont dropped out of the side to meet Ireland no one then knew that his rugby career was finished.

"I was a stand-in skipper for that one," Steve Smith said today. "Now it's very different, and we have all got to adjust to the fact that Billy is out of English rugby, that we have lost a great player and a terrific captain, and that we have all got to put in something extra to make up for the loss."

Smith stressed how important it was for him, once he had been confirmed as skipper for the Paris game, to find out whether the players were fully behind him. "I got that assurance at Stourbridge training last Monday and I want in particular to say that Peter Wheeler gave me smashing support." Wheeler with 31 caps, two Lions tours and years of experience as Leicester's captain behind him, certainly had good credentials for the job.

Smith has reminded his players that another performance as poor as the one against Ireland will put the selectors under pressure to make further changes. "They got the message," he reports.

"But it is never easy to win in Paris, and people have got to remember that in two years England have lost four great stalwarts in their pack—Tony Neary, Roger Uttley, Fran Cotton and now Billy Beaumont. After that sort of turnover, rebuilding inevitably takes time." It has already been settled that, at the start of the match at least, Maurice Colclough will occupy Beaumont's position at number two in the lineout.

England's coach, Mike Davis, does not see France playing a spoiling game. "Selection of their pack suggests that they want to counter weight with mobility and they will feel confident of challenging us at the lineout. One English task is to make sure they control their own possession much better than they did against Ireland. It is important that Colclough assumes a greater allround role."

Davis confessed that the Irish experience was more frustrating than any other since he took over as national coach, "worse in some respects than the match against Wales in Cardiff last year. At Twickenham the other week some very good players were committing some very basic mistakes, like dropping good passes or going into the tackle and promptly losing the ball."

Rugby League

Gregory drops out of tour

By Keith Macklin

The fourth withdrawal from the Great Britain under 24 squad came as expected yesterday afternoon when Andy Gregory, the Widnes scrum half, pulled out of the party to travel to Tonneins today. Gregory had been fighting a losing battle against a knee injury received at Cardiff last Sunday, and his withdrawal at noon yesterday followed a thorough examination by the Widnes club physiotherapist, Frank Tobin.

The other withdrawals, because of injury from the team originally selected to play France under-24 on Sunday are Henderson Gill (Wigan), Chris Arkwright (St Helens) and Brian Case (Warrington). The sequel to the replacement of Gill by Phil Ford of Warrington is a potential row between Wigan and Leigh. Although Gill was unfit to fly to Tonneins today, desperate efforts are being made by Wigan to enable him to play against Leigh in a league game on Sunday. Leigh are angry about this, claiming that Gill should not be declared fit to play in a championship match if he cannot play in the international.

Adrian Alexander, the Oldham and former Harlequins forward, may play the 13-a-side game again after apparently severing his connexions with Oldham to move back to London. After further talks between club and player, Oldham have agreed to let Alexander travel to and from his London home for training and matches.

Table tennis

Looking for more titles

From a Special Correspondent

Jill Hammersley, probably England's finest-ever woman player, moved one ahead of Mary Shannon-Wright's record of six national titles last year. Desmond Douglas, probably the best male player to represent England, attempts to get within one of Denis Neale's record of six titles this year.

If both are successful in the Norwich Union English closed singles events which start at Basingstoke today and finish tomorrow, Douglas will then have five titles and Mrs Hammersley eight. They stand like giants astride English table tennis.

It is difficult, therefore, to see either failing, even though Douglas may have to suffer the pressure of needing to hurry to the airport immediately afterwards to join his Bundesliga club PSV Borussia Dusseldorf.

John Hilton, the European champion, did that last time when he finished runner-up. This year he has decided that German commitments come first.

This means that Paul Day, who finished a very creditable runner-up to Douglas in five games two years ago and who became champion when Douglas was absent four years ago, has a chance to regain the spotlight.

Mrs Hammersley's nearest rival should either be Karen Witt, seeded second, or the unseeded Carole Knight, twice a former champion and runner-up last year when she saved a match point to beat Miss Witt in the semi-finals. This time they should meet in the quarter-finals, which neither will relish.

Douglas, aged 26, has won the singles, doubles and mixed titles three times, and could do so again. Mrs Hammersley, now 30, has never done that and may not have many more chances.

Golf

Trevino bounces back

From John Ballantine
Los Angeles, Feb 18

Lee Trevino, who has been nursing an old back injury since he damaged it again in Palm Springs, showed that he cannot be written off even in his 43rd year when he scored 65 to win yesterday's Pro-Am here at the Los Angeles Open.

Trevino's score was only one stroke off the tournament course record of 64, scored by Pat Fitzsimons in winning the 1975 event. His second nine 31 was also only one shot more than Johnny Bulla's nine-hole record 30 scored in 1941. And the "merry Mexican" could have equalled both records had he holed a 6ft putt on the 17th green.

"The course played very long because it is pretty wet", Trevino said "and the greens were easy because they left the grass long and you could attack the hole." When the Open began today, the par-71, 7,029-yard Riviera course was being quickly dried to a faster pace by what is known here as a "Santa Ana" wind, a warm gust from the desert often getting up to 20 mph and bringing temperatures in the low eighties.

Johnny Miller, the defending champion, was an early starter, as were Trevino, Isao Aoki, of Japan, and Britain's Nick Faldo. Miller quickly made an impression with two birdies in his first eight holes. Faldo's partner, Tim Simpson, also got two-under early on, but lost the strokes before he reached the turn.

Latest European snow reports

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off Piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm)	°C
Andermatt	150	270	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	4
Gemsstock snow excellent							
Arosa	140	190	Good	Crust	Good	Fine	-2
Powder/spring on good base							
Courmayeur	145	276	Good	Heavy	Fair	Fine	5
New snow on hard base							
Grindelwald	15	100	Good	Varied	Fair	Sun	4
Good skiing on upper slopes							
Isola 2,000	120	165	Good	Good	Good	Fine	1
Excellent skiing conditions							
Klosters	140	230	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	0
Good skiing everywhere							
La Plagne	160	320	Good	Varied	Good	Sun	2
Good skiing above 2,500m							
Lignes	155	240	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	-2
Powder on upper slopes							
Mürren	60	150	Fair	Heavy	Good	Fine	-4
Good skiing above 2,500m							
St Anton	110	460	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	5
Good skiing, some spring snow							
Seefeld	130	160	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	5
Excellent skiing conditions							
Zermatt	80	160	Fair	Varied	Poor	Fine	2
Slush on lower slopes							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following report has been received from a tourist board:

SWITZERLAND

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Adelboden	30	120	Pwdr	Good	-1
Braunwald	160	20	S/snw	Good	0
Champery	160	180	Pwdr	Good	1
Chateau d'Oex	160	100	S/snw	Good	-1
Diablerets	100	230	Pwdr	Good	2
Engelberg	30	150	Pwdr	Good	-5
Gstaad	60	120	S/snw	Good	-6
Kandersteg	25	150	S/snw	Good	0
Leuk	20	150	Pwdr	Good	-6
[illegible]	120	170	Hard	Good	0
Les Diablerets	60	120	Hard	Good	-5
Leysin	80	100	Hard	Good	-3
Pontresina	60	150	Pwdr	Good	-4
St Cergue	40	80	Hard	Good	0
St Moritz	60	100	Pwdr	Good	-3
[illegible]	40	150	Pwdr	Good	-4
[illegible]	140	120	Pwdr	Good	-3
Villars	30	130	S/snw	Good	2
Wengen	20	110	Pwdr	Good	0

Football

CALCUTTA: Nehru Gold Cup: India 2, S Korea 1.

VIAREGGIO: Junior International Tournament. Quarter-finals: Fiorentina 1, Naples 1 (Fiorentina won 5—5 on penalties); Avellino 0, AS Roma 0 (Avellino won 5—3 on penalties).

Cycling

MILAN: Six-day race: Placings after five days: 1, G Saronni and R Pijnen (Netherlands), 158 points; 2, F Moser and P Sercu (Belgium), 128; 3, [illegible] (WG) and A Peer (WG), 75, one lap behind.

For the record

Tennis

PALM SPRINGS: Second round (US unless stated): I Lendl (Czechoslovakia) beat R Lutz, 7—5, 6—1; K Warwick (Australia) beat T Nayolie, 6—4, 7—2; S Glickstein (Israel) beat R Moore, 6—3, 6—3; V Amaya beat P Rennert, 6—4, 6—3; R Tanner beat J Alexander (Australia), 4—6, 7—6, 6—6; H Pfister beat J Borowiak, 7—5, 6—3; R Ramirez (Mexico) beat Tom Gullikson, 6—1, 6—3; J Lloyd (GB) beat E Dibbs, 6—2, 6—1; P Dent (Australia) beat J Tulasne (France), 6—2, 6—4; M Purcell beat B Manson, 6—1, 6—0; C Mottram (GB) beat J Fillol (Chile), 6—4, 6—1; Y Noah (France) beat B Mitton (South Africa), 6—2, 7—5; H Solomon beat B Gilbert, 7—6, 6—1; Tim Gullikson beat W Scanlon, 6—7, 6—1, 6—4; T Smid (Czechoslovakia) beat P Elter, 6—4, 6—2; E Teltscher beat J Higueras (Spain), 6—4, 6—0.

HOUSTON: P Shriver (US) beat Z Garrison (US), 4—6, 6—1, 6—3; S Simmonds (Italy) beat Y Vermaak (SA), 7—6, 6—3.

Ice hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York Rangers 5, Pittsburgh Penguins 3; Detroit Red Wings 3, Toronto Maple Leafs 3; Buffalo Sabres 3, Chicago Black Hawks 2; Edmonton Oilers 7, Minnesota North Stars 4; Washington Capitals 5, Los Angeles Kings 2; Vancouver Canucks 6, Boston Bruins 3.

Basketball

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: New Jersey Nets 115, Chicago Bulls 105; Philadelphia 76ers 114, Dallas Mavericks 109; Houston Rockets 110, Cleveland Cavaliers 102; San Antonio Spurs 126, Detroit Pistons 112; Kansas City Kings 110, Phoenix Suns 107; Milwaukee Bucks 104, Indiana Pacers 95; Atlanta Hawks 117, Utah Jazz 109; Golden State Warriors 121, Boston Celtics 105.

EUROPEAN CUP: Semi-final pool: Maccabi Tel Aviv 101, Nashua Den Bosch (Netherlands) 95.

RONCHETTI CUP: Semi-final pool: Spartak Moscow 87, Tungsram Budapest 48.

KORAC CUP: Semi-finals: Red Star Belgrade 118, Sibenka (Yugoslavia) 99.

Wednesday's results

First division
Aston Villa (0) 1 Withe — Tottenham (0) 1 Crooks — 25,877

Second division
Chelsea (0) 1 Walker — Cardiff C (0) 0

Third division
Reading (3) 3 Webb, Donnellan, Earles — Doncaster (1) 3 Little, Dawson, Pugh — 2,361

Fourth division
Blackpool (1) 1 Noble — Northmptn (0) 0 — 2,231
Darlington (1) 4 Speedie, McLean (pen), Skipper, Walsh (pen) — Scunthorpe (1) 1 Stewart — 1,663
Hereford (1) 1 Dobson — Sheff Utd (1) 1 Trusson — 3,068
Wigan (0) 1 O'Keefe (pen) — Aldershot (0) 0 — 5,120

Scottish Cup
Fourth round replay
Hibernian (0) 1 Paterson — Dundee U (0) 1 Hegarty
After extra time. Score at 90 min: 1—1.

Scottish premier division
Partick T (1) 2 Higgins, Johnston — Rangers (0) 0

Scottish first division
Clydebank (1) 3 Ronald, Given (pen), Millar — Dumbarton (0) 0
Dunfermline (0) 2 Stewart, McCardle — Queen's Pk (1) 1 Grant
E Stirling (1) 1 Kettings — Hamilton (2) 5 Craig, Fairlie (2, 1 pen), Donnelly, Deeney
Falkirk (1) 2 Hoggan (pen), Herd — Kilmarnock (2) 2 Bourke (2)
Hearts (2) 4 Robertson, McDonald, McCoy, Pettigrew — Qn of South (1) 1 Alexander
Motherwell (0) 2 Gahagan, McLaughlin — St Johnstone (2) 2 Morton, Rutherford

Scottish second division
Alloa (0) 1 Purdie — Albion (0) 0
Berwick (0) 0 — Stranraer (0) 0
Brechin (0) 2 Cormack, Elvin (pen) — Arbroath (1) 2 Robb (2, 1 pen)
Stenhsmuir (0) 0 — Forfar (0) 0
Stirling Alb (1) 1 Leetion — Meadowbank (0) 0

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Telford 4, Altrincham 3; Weymouth 3, Worcester 2; Yeovil 1, Enfield 2.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Midland division: Bedford 4, Cambridge City 1; Bridgend 2, Minehead 1; Cheltenham 2, Kettering 3. Southern division: Addlestone and Weybridge 1, Waterlooville 1; Dover 0, Gosport 2; Dunstable 1, Welling 2.

FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth round replay: Sunderland 1, Tottenham Hotspur 0.

A new ... opens for England ... Paris

Racing

Little Owl can ta[...] large step on road back to the to[...]

By Michael Seely

The mystery surrounding Little Owl should be solved at Newcastle this afternoon when the hero of last season's Cheltenham Gold cup attempts to defy top weight in the Trout Steeplechase. This is the only piece of the jigsaw missing from the puzzle of this year's big race at the National Hunt Festival. Of the market leaders Night Nurse, Royal Bond and Venture to Cognac have already shown their well being and Diamond Edge was by no means disgraced when beaten by Royal Judgment at Newbury last Saturday. But Little Owl has a reputation to restore today.

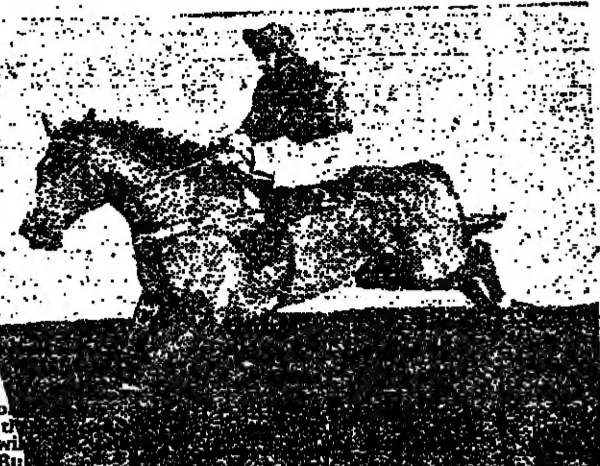
On his first appearance at Cheltenham in December Little Owl was racing with all his old zest when falling in the race won by Royal Bond. He was then pulled up after the bit had slipped through his mouth in that controversial affair at Kempton Park in which Venture To Cognac beat Great Dean. Then on his first completed outing of the season at Ascot last wee[k] Owl finished a well-beate[n] behind Cavity Hunter. Thi[s] have been a better perfor[mance] than it looked as the first home, Cavity Hunter, Gritt[a], Sugarally were all stro[ngly] fancied lighweights.

However, there can be excuses if Little Owl fails [to] make a bold showing today. Jo[njo] O'Neill making his return to th[e] saddle after his fall at Ascot wi[ll] be on board Silent Valley. Bu[t] this useful stayer has yet to recapture the ability that saw him so narrowly defeated by the ill-fared Bright Highway in the 1980 Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup.

Those who are at the peak of their form on the other hand are down towards the bottom of the long handicap. The Scottish trained Peaty Sandy cantered home by 10 lengths in the Welsh Grand National, but is carrying 7lb more than his allotted weight. The same applies to both Solo Sam and Skegby, who were successful last Saturday. Peaty Sandy should be the favourite's [...]idable opponent, but [...] and Little Owl cannot [...]

[...]s the sailor, home fr[...]d the hunter home St[...]ill", Robert Louis ap[...]id and the same wh[...]st of our trainers the like lemmings to Pat[...]s after Christmas. from[...]as just returned Barba[...]iami, Caracas and in all, he went racing noon [...]ces. This after- [...]ssible Irishman will be at Newcastle to watch Sandalay try to win his third race off the reel in the first division of the Wild Duck Novices Hurdle.

Rohan wants to see if Sandalay is good enough to be aimed at the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle after his early-season victories at Wetherby and Cheltenham. Christmas Cottage chased home Hot Fire at Wetherby recently and is sure to give Sandalay a run for his money in receipt of 10lb from the likely favourite.



[...]wl: out to restore his reputation

Injury ends career of Anaglogs Daughter

The career of one of the most popular Irish-trained steeplechasers since Arkle came to an abrupt and tragic end at Thurles yesterday afternoon when Anaglogs Daughter broke down in her attempt to win a third successive PZ Mower steeplechase. The mare, who raced 106 times for her 18 victories, was bowling along in her customary front-running manner when she suddenly slowed down four fences from home.

Gerry Newman, one of three jockeys who rides her, carried in and it seemed that all was well when Anaglogs daughter was still in contention at the final fence. She struggled on gamely to finish two lengths behind Smoke Charger, but immediately after passing the winning post Newman jumped off because she was limping.

As he unsaddled the nine-year-old, her Dublin trainer, Bill Durkan, said she would be retired and go to stud as a broodmare. Her progeny will certainly make exciting jumping prospects, but that is only token compensation to the thousands of racegoers she has thrilled over the past three years.

Newcastle programme

1.45 WILD DUCK HURDLE (Div I: novices: £760: 2m 120yd) (11 runners)

7	00	MASTER'S BOY (E Collingwood-Cameron) W A Stephenson 7-11-4	R Lamb
9	00-0040	MOUNT EATON (D Davison) P Asquith 8-11-4	C Pimlott
11	0/0	RELKOZINI (Mrs R Calzini) I Jordon 6-11-4	J O'Neill
12	00pp-0	SOME OPERATOR (T Metcalfe) D Metcalfe 6-11-4	Mr D Metcalfe
14	000	STOP IT (A Scott) A Scott 7-11-4	G Bradley
15	f0	WILD LONE (Mrs D McGillycuddy) N Crump 6-11-4	C Hawkins
17	f0	PORTMADOC (W A Stephenson) W A Stephenson 5-11-3	Mr E McIntyre 4
20		STYREN (A Wylie) C Bell 5-11-3	P Tuck
22	11	SANDALAY (P Scott) P Rohan 4-10-13	P A Charlton
26	000	BONNY GOLD (J Rushworth) K Stone 4-10-3	C Tinkler
27	b32	CHRISTMAS COTTAGE (Mrs P Mason) J Mason 4-10-3	S Charlton

11-8 Sandalay, 2 Christmas Cottage, 9-2 Wild Lone, 8 Stop It, 12 Master's Boy, 20 others.

2.15 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Hunters: £856: 3m) (10)

6	31000p-	RUBSTIC (D) (J Douglas) S Leadbetter 13-12-9	R Shiels 7
7	111-f	SOLAR BEE (D) (W Reed) W Reed 7-12-9	T Reed 7
8	221020-	THE DRUNKEN DUCK (B Munro-Wilson) B M-Wilson 9-12-9	B Munro-Wilson
9	00o3-03	PURSENA (D) (T Ridley) T Ridley 9-12-5	C Sample 7
10	3/02d22-	GAYLE WARNING (D) (J Dudgeon) J Dudgeon 8-12-5	A Dudgeon 7
11	12p-002	HONOURABLE MAN (CD) (Mrs P Russell) Mrs P Russell 9-12-5	A Fowler 4
13	04/	AMBER SLAVE (J Thompson) J Thompson 10-12-1	E McIntyre 4
14	0/2	CAHERTY (Mrs J Gledson) Mrs J Gledson 9-12-1	P Cragge
15	0/f-0243	CASTLEBURGH (J Storey) J Storey 7-12-1	C Storey 7
16	0p-	GRANGER (E Robson) E Robson 9-12-1	Miss P Robson 7

7-4 Honourable Man, 3 Rubstic, 4 The Drunken Duck, 6 Gayle Warning, 10 Solar Bee, 12 Caherty, 16 others.

2.45 OAK HURDLE (Handicap: £1,042: 2½m) (24)

1	m301r	DUC DE BOLEBEC (D) (C Marler) G Fairbairn 9-11-11	C Grant
2	000101	HIGH HILLS (CD) (3-D Trucks Ltd) T Craig 8-11-10 (10 ex)	Mr T G Dun
3	12411-	RAISE A BOUNTY (D) (H Avill) N Crump 9-11-10	C Hawkins
4	30-002p	TONY (C) (Mrs D Bousfield) B Bousfield 10-11-9	J O'Neill
5	130/10-0	LENYGON (K Haran) P Rohan 7-11-8	P Charlton
7	021020	LITTLE FRENCHMAN (CD) (E Robson) E Robson 9-11-5	C Pimlott
10	000104	TUDOR FOLLY (C) (J Lisle) W A Stephenson 6-11-3	R Lamb
12	21120-0	LEADING LADY (C) (Mrs F Raper) M W Dickinson 7-11-1	R Earnshaw
13	43-0pp0	ISLANDER (DD) (Mrs G Weir) Ld Kilmany 10-10-13	G Holmes
14	120-010	MR SNUGFIT (C) (A Greenwood) M W Easterby 5-10-10	P Tuck
15	0200-0r	REGAL TUDOR (CD) (J Pringle) G Lockerbie 9-10-9	N Balmer
16	20422-0	RABRIGG (J Henderson) T Cuthbert 7-10-8	—
18	10-b000	CAROUSER (Mrs A Braham) D Chapman 6-10-8	M Brennan
19	p-04312	NODANA (D) (Mrs M Campbell) T Craig 8-10-7	D Dutton 4
20	1-0010	ROCK FALL (C Dent) R Fisher 5-10-8	D Goulding
21	p30223-	CANTY'S BRIG (D Thomson) D Thomson 9-10-5	J Allen
22	0/31u30-	O'ER THE BORDER (P Calver) P Calver 8-10-4	C Tinkler
23	11f0-02	MEADSGROVE (C) (Brig T Usher) T Usher 8-10-4	D Atkins
24	01021-0	OCEAN CRUISE (J Mason) J Mason 7-10-4	S Charlton
25	0000-00	BELLE ISLE BOY (W Smith) W Smith 6-10-4	K Williams 4
26	0p00fa-	HANDYCUFF (C) (A Scott) A Scott 10-10-3	A Stringer 4
28	p-p2000	THE SOLENT (W Chapman) D Chapman 6-10-0	K Whyte
32	223-011	KIBCOY (W Stephenson) C Bell 5-10-0	S Keightley 4
33	020/039	DOJUMOLA (K Wilson) W Storey 6-10-0	—

5 Rock Fall, 6 Leading Lady, 7 Raise A Bounty, 8 High Hills, Tony, 10 Lenygon, Nodana, 12 Tudor Folly, Little Frenchman, 14 Meadsgrove, Mr Snugfit, 16 Kibcoy, 20 others.

3.15 TR[...] (Handicap: £7,220: 3m) (10)

1	111-6E		Mr A Wilson
5	123p3	[...]OWL (CD) (R Wilson) M H Easterby 8-12-0	J O Neill
6	114/30	[...]VALLEY (J Walby) I Jordon 9-10-7	R Barry
8	2-2311	[...]G JACK (C) (G Adam) K Oliver 11-10-7	Mr T G Dun
10	311f04	[...]NDY (C) (Mrs I Hamilton) Miss H Hamilton 8-10-7	R Lamb
11	01-f010	[...]S EXPRESS (C) (Mrs M Britton) W A Stephenson 8-10-7	G Holmes
12	dl-p000	[...]NEER (D) (Ld Kilmany) Ld Kilmany 10-10-7	Mr N Tutty 3
13	31-0421	[...]EO (A Sanderson) Miss J Sanderson 10-10-7	C Pimlott
14	4010a1	[...] (D) (Mrs R Brewis) R Brewis 10-10-7 (4 ex)	M Brennan 3
15	12131f	[...] (Bowie Jean Clothing) O Brennan 8-10-7 (4 ex)	C Grant
		[...]ER (C) (A Scott) A Scott 9-10-7	

6-4 Little Owl, 11[...]dy, 6 Skegby, 7 Rambling Jack, 10 Solo Sam, 12 Silent Valley, 16 others.

3.45 BEECH C[...] [...]ovice handicap: £1,390: 2m 120yd) (3)

1	0-21p2p	[...]	D Atkins
2	000-2f1	SUN[...] Lockey) B Wilkinson 6-11-10	J O'Neill
4	4442fa0	MAR[...] Hogan) M H Easterby 7-11-6	G Bradley
5	4ff	SCOT[...] (H Proud) J Charlton 6-11-0	C Hawkins
6	3-1030u	PALA[...] (Mrs B Eve) N Crump 6-10-11	P Tuck
7	24-0a34	AUTU[...] R Tate) R Tate 9-10-8	Mr K Darby
8	03p440	MR BR[...] (G Richards) G Richards 9-10-8	R Lamb
9	p23032/	HEIDU[...] Motors) W A Stephenson 9-10-7	D Turnbull
10	011300	LINATE[...] (J Dodds) J Dodds 7-10-7	C Pimlott
		[...]stin) P Curtis 7-10-6	

7-4 Sun Cloud, 7-2 [...]w, 9-2 Roman Con, 6 Linater, 8 Mr Brady, 10 Marine Cadet, 16 others.

4.15 WILD DUCK HU[...] [...]Div II: novices: £770: 2m 120yd) (16)

1	-43f11	SUPER SOLO[...]	R Barry
3	4p-3414	CAMBORNE [...]ton PO Ltd) G Richards 6-12-0	P Tuck
4	01	RHEINIEKEN (A Ogilvy) C Bell 6-11-9	J O'Neill
5	00/0	COLANEY Mrs [...]sfield) B Bousfield 5-11-6	C Pimlott
10	000-p	GILZIE BANK ([...] R Brewis 7-11-4	C Brownless
11	00-0200	JARASINDA (W [...]ld) R McDonald 7-11-4	C Grant
13	0003/04	MR RAFFERTY ([...]nson) W A Stephenson 6-1[...]	Mr E McIntyre 4
14	00	NO MATCH (Mrs Denys Smith) 6-11-4	C Grant
15	00	STRANGE KIT (T Ford) S Leadbetter 6-11-4	D Nolan
17	0p3	DEREK'S BAY (T Craig) 7-11-4	E Brand 7
18	0	EL DON VELGO (M Barron) 5-11-3	S Charlton
19	4000-00	JUBILEE LIGHTS ([...]chardson) B Wilkinson 5-11-[...]	—
20	402	KRISTENSON (Mrs Aller) J Townson 5-11-3	R Crank
21	0000	NORTHERN EDITION ([...]) R Fisher 5-11-3	K Toolan 7
22	0	OLIVE PRESS (A Macy) W A Stephenson 5-11-3	R Lamb
26	00	WOODLAND PATH (T A Mactaggart [...]) T Fairhurst 5-11-3	Fairhurst

9-4 Rheinieken 3 Camborne Hill, [...]r Solo, 5 Kristenson, 8 Derek's Bay, 10 Mr Rafferty, 16 others.

4.45 POPLAR HURDLE (4-y-o [...]es: £722: 2½m) (13)

1	402211	GEORDIE LAD (R Baker) D[...]Smith 11-10	A Stringer 4
2	01	SAM WREKIN (D) (R Tho[...]) C Bell 11-5	C Pimlott
3	00122	TUDORVILLE (E Harvey) K [...] 11-6	C Tinkler
4	0	BY THE LAKE (Miss A Hilson[...]) R Johnson 11-0	D [...]Cask 4
5		CHEF MARCEL (W Lindsay) [...] 11-0	Charlton
6	0	COOL ANDY (H Rebanks) H R[...]ks 11-0	R Barry
7	00	EDITOR (R Spencer) M H Eas[...] 11-0	O'Neill
8	00	GRINDERS (Needhams Butcher[...]) Carter 11-0	Lamb
10	03	LEOPARD BEACH (J Fisher 11-[...]	J Er[...]ton 4
11	0	MUNSTER GLEN (Mrs M Shaw[...]) R Fisher 11-0	[...]rown
13	0000	POLLY QUINN (Mrs D Wardman) Wardman 11-0	P [...]mes
15	0000	SATINANA (Mrs F Walton) F Walt[...] 11-0	Mr J [...]ton
16	0200	UNDER-RATED (T English) M W E[...]rby 11-0	[...]ck

6-4 Geordie Lad, 3 Tudorville, 5 Sam Wrekin, L[...]opard Beach, [...] Editor, Under-Ra[...], 16 others.

Newcastle selections

By Michael Seely

1.45 Sandalay, 2.15 Honourable Man, 2.45 Tony, 3.15 Little Owl, 3.45 Sun Cloud, 4.15 Rheinieken, 4.45 Geordie Lad.

Fakenham programme

1.30 SHERINGHAM HURDLE (selling handicap: £788 2m 120yd) (14 runners)

1	34-00	STRAITS (T Rollingson) T Rollingson 5-11-11	J Barlow
2	4-00400	HALLO CHEEKY (B) (W Bissill) W Bissill 6-11-10	Mr H Bissill 7
3	0-04030	JOJA ROLY (Mrs B Wilson) P Mitchell 6-11-9	R Hughes
13	p00p-p	DECOMPRESSION (A Madwar) A Madwar 5-10-12	S McNeill
15	000-043	WINKING FIELDS (A Cope) A Cope 6-10-10	K Townend 7
18	0f0331	MAURICE'S TIP (D Motts) J Jenkins 4-10-9	J Francome
19	0030	MAGIC ABROAD (J Whetstone) C MacKenzie 4-10-8	—
20	0p0p0uf	SICILLIAN GOLD (K McCourt) M Chapman 5-10-6	P Dever 7
21	0p30p	MUSICAL BRIDGE (I Goldstein) M Chapman 4-7-10	S O'Neill
23	pf0p-00	PRIMELAND (Mrs A Fitch-Heyes) J Fitch-Heyes 6-10-4	A Madgwick 7
24	00000-	ECHENIOR (G Woolatt) P Allingham 5-10-3	P Scudamore
25	4023-04	KASCHA (H O'Neill) H O'Neill 5-10-3	G Gracey
26	00-00	HOOD HILL (B) (S Foster) G Fletcher 6-10-3	G Fletcher 4
27	00p-0	BRIGADIER DAN (B McKay) J Scallan 8-10-3	G Kennard 7

6-4 Maurice's Tip, 4 Kascha, 6 Joja Roly, 8 Straits, 10 Winking Fields, 12 Hood Hill, Hallo Cheeky, 20 others

2.0 SANDRINGHAM CHASE (Handicap: £1,423: 3m) (8)

1	03-p003	TRAGUS (Ld Hartington) D Morley 10-12-7	P Scudamore
3	421-2u2	ABBEY BRIG (P Betts Holdings) J Gifford 8-10-6	R Rowe
4	1-03340	PRAIRIE GREEN (Mrs M Bennion) W Wharton 8-10-3	Mr W Bennion
6	f20-p00	SWORD OF LIGHT (J Drewry) P O'Connor 8-10-0	S Jobar
10	40-0100	PRINCE CARLTON (CD) (Mrs J Bloom) Mrs J Bloom 7-10-0	A Webber
13	03p-p00	RIGHT TACTICS (Mrs R Brew) Miss C Brew 11-10-0	Miss C Brew 4
15	00-p430	RODNEY PARADE (B) (S Pelling) R Armytage 7-10-0	J Francome
16	u0-pf30	RUBBER LEGS (K Read) W Marshall 6-10-0	J Suthern

11-10 Tragus, 7-2 Abbey Brig, 5 Prince Carlton, 8 Rubber Legs, 10 Prairie Green, 12 Rodney Parade, 25 others.

2.30 TOTE CHASE (novices: £1,113: 2m 55yd) (17)

5	02420-p	BUCK AND WING (Capt A Pratt) A Pratt 7-11-9	Mr P Webber
6	40f	CRAFTY LOOK (G Paul) J Scallan 7-11-9	J Barlow
8	00/00f	DAKAR (M Gore) N Henderson 6-11-9	B Davies
9	2241-30	DAME SUE (Metal-Woods) S Mellor 6-11-9	S Keightley 4
12	pf0	GAME DECEPTION (G King) G King 8-11-9	S McNeill 4
13	4-0002D	CRAFTY GREEN (Mrs A Dale) D Dale 7-11-9	J McLaughlin 4
14	2p000u	GRANGEHILL (D Morrill) D Morrill 7-11-9	A Webb
17	034303	JAMES SEYMOUR (D Picton) N Gaselee 6-11-9	R Linley
18	300-32p	LAW VENTURE (Mrs P Sly) Mrs P Sly 8-11-9	M Bastard
21	100/0-00	MASTERS (Sir P Crossman) D Ringer 8-11-9	B Davies
22	f0-0pp0	MOUNT TEMPLE (R Bedwell) D Morley 6-11-9	P Scudamore
31	0000-00	SILARI (J South) J Harris 8-11-9	J Harris 4
33	0-00	ADMINISTRATOR (H O'Neill) H O'Neill 5-11-0	G Gracey
34	34-1104	LOW QUAY (Mrs G Pritchard-Gordon) G Pritchard-Gordon 5-11-0	J Francome
35	003023	HOOKIE BEAR (B) (R De Courcey) P Mitchell 5-11-0	A Webber
37	p0p0-l	SEVENTH VALLEY (Mrs J Bloom) Mrs J Bloom 5-11-0	S McNeill
38	0-00000	VARTKEZ (R Taylor) C Mackenzie 5-11-0	P Scudamore

9-4 Low Quay, 11-4 Dame Sue, 4 James Seymour, 6 Hookie Bear, 8 Law Venture, 10 Mount Temple, 16 others.

3.0 HAIG W[...]SKY HURDLE (novices: £883: 2m 120yd) (15)

1	4-21132	[...]HARLIE MUDDLE (B Norman) S Mellor 7-11-10	S Jo[...]
2		[...]HESTNUT PRINCE (M Mendoza) W Musson [...]-11-0	A Coog[...]
3	340-000	[...]ENCH POLLY (D Tucker) D Tucker 6-11-0	G Peerless
4	00	[...]NRY FORD (Mrs J Ford) J Jenkins 6-11-0	M Harrington
6	002/0	M[...]NOR FARM GIRL (J Hague) M Tompkins 6-11-0	J O'N[...]
8	0	O[...]C (R Wright) R Wright 7-11-0	P Carv[...]
9	00f0	STREAMLINER (P Betts Holdings) J Gifford 6-11-0	R Ro[...]
10	002	BE[...]RE LADY (H O'Neill) H O'Neill 5-10-10	G Gra[...]
15	p	FADING DAWN (Mrs P Sly) Mrs P Sly 5-10-10	M Bast[...]
16	030	GAY TENT (F Haggas) N Gaselee 5-10-10	R Lin[...]
17		HIVE (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 5-10-10	P Wrigh[...]
20	00	LACKADAISICAL MISS (J Wales) R Carter 5-10-10	Mrs W Webl[...]
21	0	MILITARY CROWN (R Hall) P Allingham 5-10-10	Scudam[...]
24	00	TING (Mrs E Phipps) G Fletcher 5-10-10	Fletche[...]
25	p	WINGSOFTHEMORNING (Lydiate Packaging) A Madwar 5-10-10	J Bar[...]

11-4 Charlie Muddle, [...]-2 Beere Lady, 9-2 Military Crown, 6 Gay Tent, 8 Hive, Henry Fo[rd], 12 Streamliner, French Polly, 20 others.

3.30 WALTER WALES (Hunters: £946: 2m 150yd) (10)

1	u21211-	MR MELLORS (CD) (Mrs A Villar) Mrs A Villar 8-12-6	Mrs L Gibb[...]
2	0r240-0	RAMBLIX (P Ledger) P Ledger 10-2-6	T He[...]
3	1123-21	ROADHEAD (J Wilson) J Gifford 8-12-6	Miss V Wils[...]
4	1/3311p-	SWIFT WOOD (CD) (D Wales) D Wales 8-12-2	W W[...]
7	2442/2-4	COOCH BEHAR (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 10-11-10	R Wal[...]
8	tpp4b4	HIGH VINE (Mrs I Palmer) T Palmer 10-11-10	Mrs P Pa[...]
9	0041fp-	KING'S CHAMPION (Capt A Pratt) A Pratt 10-11-10	Mrs D Grise
10	023210-	LIGHTVALE (D) (R Case) R Case 8-11-10	Mo[...]
12	140312/	SCORDUFF (Mrs N Stearn) Mrs N Stearn 9-11-10	S Ste[...]
14		ZAMARA (J Wales) J Wales 11-11-10	T Wa[...]

13-8 Roadhead, 9-4 Mr Mellors, 4 Ramblix, 6 Swift Wood, 8 Cooch Behar, 16 others.

4.0 CROMER HURDLE (Handicap: £1,128: 2m 120yd) (12)

2	124140	HAVERHILL LAD (Mrs B Janner) G Blum 6-11-10	P Scud[...]
7	230022	SPIKEY BILL (CD) (R Greetham) P Mitchell 5-10-11	R H[...]
8	000000	MANDY'S TIME (Miss J Wood) J Harris 6-10-10	J Ha[...]
9	13p/p	FLECHA (M Haynes) M Haynes 7-10-10	—
10	0-21104	HEDINGHAM BOY (B Ridlington) H Fleming 7-10-9	J McLaugh[...]
11	01-p000	KING'S PICCOLO (A Thompkins) W Musson 5-10-6	A C[...]
13	44-0000	JOSMOLL (R Taylor) C Mackenzie 5-10-5	J Fran[...]
16	000300	WALDUCK (T Hodgkins) M Chapman 5-10-2	P D[...]7
19	fp0p-00	SANDOR (Mrs R Brew) Miss C Brew 7-10-0	Miss C B[...]
20	300/2a0-	CAPTAIN EZRA (H) (R Finch) J Scallan 13-10-6	Mr T M[...]7
22	300-0p0	ROANDER (R Scott) K Morgan 5-10-0	Alb[...]
23	000/p/p0	TEMOKE (A Hutley) H O'Neill 7-10-0	G Gr[...]

7-4 Spikey Bill, 5-2 Haverhill Lad, 4 Hedingham Boy, 6 Flecha, 8 Mandy's Time, 12 [King's] Piccolo, 20 others.

Fakenham selections

By Michael Seely

1.30 Maurice's Tip, 2.0 Tragus, 2.30 James Seymour, 3.0 Charlie Muddle, 3.30 Roadhead, 4.0 Spikey Bill.

Southwell results

Going: good to soft

1.0 (1.1) CROWN HURDLE Div 1: selling: £524: 2m)

KING OF STRESS, ch g by Galivanter — Belmont Girl (Northumbria Leisure Ltd) 4-9-8 M. Brennan (2-1 fav) 1
Drake's Lady .... M. Elliott (12-1) 2
Chiss Run .... C. Smith (5-1) 3

TOTE: Win 38p; places, 11p, 48p, 37p. Dual F: £2.12. CSF: £2.91. W. Storey at Consett. 25l,3l. Futuro Unseen (20-1) 4th. 13 ran. NR: Claymore and 'C' Top. Winner sold for 1,800 gns.

1.30 (1.31) BROMLEY ARMS CHASE: (Handicap: £1,130: 2m 74yd)

MASTER MELODY, b g by Highland Melody — Briarstone (W Hackett) 11-10-7 M. Bastard (5-1) 1
Hanlow Gamble .... P. Carvill (2-1 fav) 2
Aberenster .... R. Lamb (9-2) 3

TOTE: Win 57p; places, 24p, 12p, 27p. Dual F: £1.32. CSF: £21.47. Tricast: £4.24. W Hackett at Ratcliffe on the Wreake 4l, nk. Very Friendly (8-1) 4th. 15 ran.

2.0 (2.0) CROWN HURDLE (Div II: selling: £524: 2m)

GOLDLINER ABBEY, b or br g by Abwah-Bright And Early (T. Edmonds) 4-10-0 S Johnson (6-1) 1
Fyldon .... M. Brennan (5-1) 2
Alabama .... S. Coyle (3-1 fav) 3

TOTE: Win 99p, places, 16p, 19p, 17p. Dual F: £3.35. CSF: £5.19. J. Hardy at Staunton. 3l, 1l. Eboracum (7-2) 4th. 14 ran. Winner bought in for 1,800 gns.

2.30 (2.30) STAR AND GARTER CHASE (Handicap: £1,421: 3m 110yds)

BROGHY BANK, br g by Ginger — Straight Jet (Capt J. Lumsden) 7-11-6 Mr J Bryan (3-1 fav) 1
Railway Line .... Mr P Webber (12-1) 2
French Rebel .... A Coogan (25-1) 3

TOTE: Win: 38p; places, 10p, 21p, 26p, 16p. Dual F: £5.07. CSF: £4.07. Tricast: £71.03. J Edwards at Ross on Wye. 3l,10l. Auldand Jack (4-1) 4th. 16 ran.

3.0 (3.01) TOTE HURDLE (Handicap: £1,222: 2m)

AUDIT, ch g by Henry the Seventh — Red Again (J Parkes) 4-9-7 M Pepper (33-1) 1
[...]lleston .... S J O'Neill (4-1) 2
[Ru]ral Commotion .... S Morshead (5-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £2.06; places, 45p, 10p, 18p, 49p. Dual F: £19.19. CSF: £18.54. Tricast: £13[...]. J Parkes at Richmond. 1l, 2½l. Hyde 5-2 [...] Tom Noel (20-1) 4th. 20 ran.

3.30 (3.3[...]) REINDEER CHASE (Novice Hunters: £840: 3m 110 yds)

MINDBENDER, br g by Foggy Bell — Zig Zag Girl (Mrs J Bealby) 9-11-7 Mr C Bealby (10-1) 1
Bobby's Fo[...] .... Mr P Mann (11-1) 2
Brief Chance .... Mr T Head (25-1) 3

TOTE: Win: 72p; places 15p, 29p, 86p. Dual F: £6.46. CSF: £11.89. Mrs J Bealby at Grantham. 8l, 3l. Housemistress and Moles Chamber 4-1 jt-fav. Buckmaster (5-1) 4th. 17 ran. NR: Charlie's Choice.

4.0 (4.1) ELM TREE HURDLE (Div I: novices: £840: 2½m)

BRAVE GEORGE b g by Brave Invader — Bylona (P Cowell) 5-10-8 P Carvill (6-4) 1
Lettoch .... C Pimlott (11-8 fav) 2
Pincents .... P Richards (5-1) 3

TOTE: Win, 27p; places, 10p, 12p, 21p. Dual F: 24p. CSF: 38p. P Harris at Newmarket. 3l, 12l. Horkey (12-1) 4th. 15 ran.

4.30 (4.31) ELM TREE HURDLE (Div II: novices: £414: 2½m)

BIG PADDY JOE b g by Chinatown — Wogalong (A Dickinson) 7-11-0 R Earnshaw (13-8 fav) 1
Caravan Centre .... Mr T D Smith (25-1) 2
Clearit .... G Graham (7-2) 3

TOTE: Win, 52p; places, 17p, 50p, 14p. Dual F: £4.02. CSF: £4.40. M Dickinson at Harewood. 10l, nk. Trent Valley (16-1) 4th. 15 ran.

PLACEPOT: £11.20.

Taunton abandoned

After an early morning inspection at Taunton, yesterday's meeting was abandoned because of a heavy fall of snow overnight.

STATE OF GOING (official): Newcastle: good to soft; Fakenham: chase — good, hurdles — good to soft. Tomorrow: Chepstow: soft; Lingfield: chase — heavy, hurdles — soft; Nottingham: chase — good to soft, hurdles — soft.

Motoring by Peter Waymark

Why there is lead in petrol

The revival of the debate about lead in petrol, concentrating as it has on the health aspect, has left many motorists wondering what the implications might be for their cars. Here, in response to letters from readers, is what I hope will be a plain man's guide.

First of all, why add lead to petrol? Mainly to raise the octane rating and protect an engine from the harmful effects of knocking or detonation. This has two further advantages. It allows manufacturers to design engines with higher compression ratios, which use fuel more efficiently and which in turn means better performance and fuel consumption.

The use of lead also saves energy in a more direct way. The lower the lead level, the more crude oil has to be refined to replace the lost octane numbers. From the pure energy point of view, therefore, there is a strong case for retaining lead.

Why cannot other additives be used? Shell says it has evaluated nearly 1,000 compounds without discovering one that is suitable. The best alternative seems to be MTBE, methyl tertiary butyl ether, but it is unlikely to be available in sufficient quantities. High octane petrol could be produced without an additive, but the oil industry says that the cost would be prohibitive.

So if the Government decided that all lead should be removed from petrol at once, how many of the present cars would still be able to run? A rough guess is no more than one in ten. The effect of banning lead would be to reduce octane rating on present four-star petrol from about 97 to about 92, which is the common two-star rating.

No cars which now require four-star petrol would, therefore, be able to run on lead-free fuel. As for cars now running on two-star, estimated at a fifth of all cars some would be able to switch to leadless petrol but by no means all; it would depend on factors such as compression ratio and valve seating.

Could present cars be converted to run on lead-free fuel? They could but it would be expensive. It would be necessary to remove the cylinder head, fit thicker gaskets, and reduce the compression ratio; and to bore out and reseat the valves. An informed industry guess is about £300 a car. The engine would also use more fuel, about 6 per cent and therefore be dearer to run.

In some countries, including the United States, Canada and Japan, new cars have had to run on lead-free fuel since the mid-1970s. But Japanese cars sold in export markets which do not require leadless petrol are often given a higher compression ratio, to boost economy and performance.

If I am worried about the effect of lead on health, will it help to switch to a "two-star" model? No, because the amount of lead in two-star and four-star petrol is similar. The best thing would be to change from a petrol to a diesel car, because diesel fuel has no lead.

If the Government did decide to ban lead in petrol, how long would it take car manufacturers to meet this requirement on future models? The industry says it would need five years to make the necessary adjustment.

What are the implications of the Government's present aim of reducing the lead level in petrol from 0.40 grams a litre to 0.15 grams by the end of 1985? First, more crude oil, estimated at 500,000 tonnes a year, will be needed to produce the fuel and there will have to be extra investment at the refineries. The cost of all that, according to the oil industry, will be about £200m a year and the price of a gallon of petrol will go up by 3p to 4p at today's prices.

Will the low-lead fuel of 1985 be suitable for today's "four-star" cars? Yes, because the Government has stipulated that the octane rating of 97 should be retained.

How would a complete ban on lead eventually affect car design? The trend in recent years, partly because of the energy crisis, has been towards higher compression engines to save fuel without compromising performance. If future engines were required to accept lead-free fuel, compression ratios would almost certainly have to come down and these gains would be partly offset.

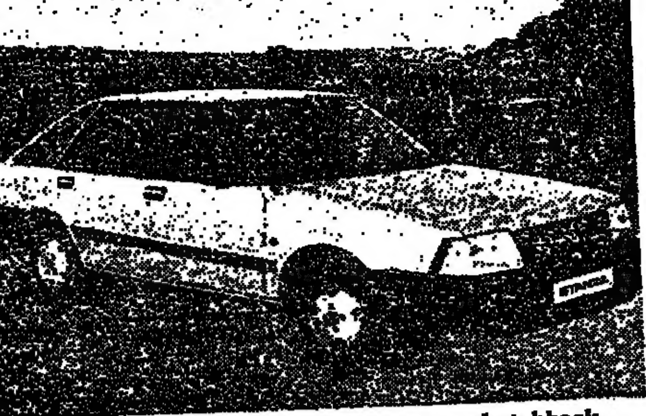
But there are other ways of improving the fuel consumption of a car, such as reducing weight and lowering aerodynamic drag, and overall a move to leadless fuel might not have a great effect. Cars would still be much more economical in 20 years' time than they are today.

Datsun Stanza

Once upon a time, and not so long ago, it was easy to be sniffy about Japanese cars. They might have been good value for money and offered things such as radios that European cars did not; and they were probably reliable. But, apart from their excellent gearboxes, there was not much to be said in their favour; the steering was often soggy, the ride indifferent, and they could be cramped in the back. In a word, they were technically well behind their European rivals.

The Japanese, however, refused to stand still and, having opened up a huge productivity gap over the rest of the world, they proceeded to catch up in design. In appearance and mechanical specification the Datsun Stanza, which went on sale in Britain last month, could easily be a European car.

Replacing the Violet, it is a medium car slightly smaller overall than the Ford Cortina or Vauxhall Cavalier and, like the Cavalier it is being offered in both saloon and hatchback forms. The hatchback, as the picture shows, is a particularly attractive design to have come from a company such as Datsun and its smooth lines owe much to aerodynamics as well as to aesthetics.



Catching up fast — the Datsun Stanza hatchback

The Stanza breaks with much Japanese tradition by having the engine space inside the car. It is roomier than its predecessor and it claims more width at the elbow than any other model in its class. But space in the back seat is not exceptional and a tall person may find his legs bunched and his head brushing the roof.

The hatchback door opens on a large boot, although a high lip has first to be negotiated. The length of the load area can be almost doubled, to 55in, by folding down the rear seat, which is sensibly split for greater versatility.

Apart from front-wheel drive, the Stanza has other mechanical features Japanese models have tended to avoid, notably rack-and-pinion steering and independent rear suspension.

The engines are an overhead camshaft design, available as a 1.6 litre and a 1.8 litre. They have been designed to be as small and light as possible and the 1.6 is said to be the lightest in production for its capacity. The gearboxes, four and five-speed, have overdrive ratios to help economy.

My test car was the 1.6 SGL five-door hatchback, with a 1.6 litre engine developing 81bhp and five-speed box. Power-steering and alloy wheels are standard items and at £5,320 the car sells competitively against British rivals such as the Cavalier or the Talbot Alpine.

The engine is a lively performer, with the qualification that on the five-speed box the two top gears are both overdrives. That means often dropping down to third for quick overtaking and pulling up hills.

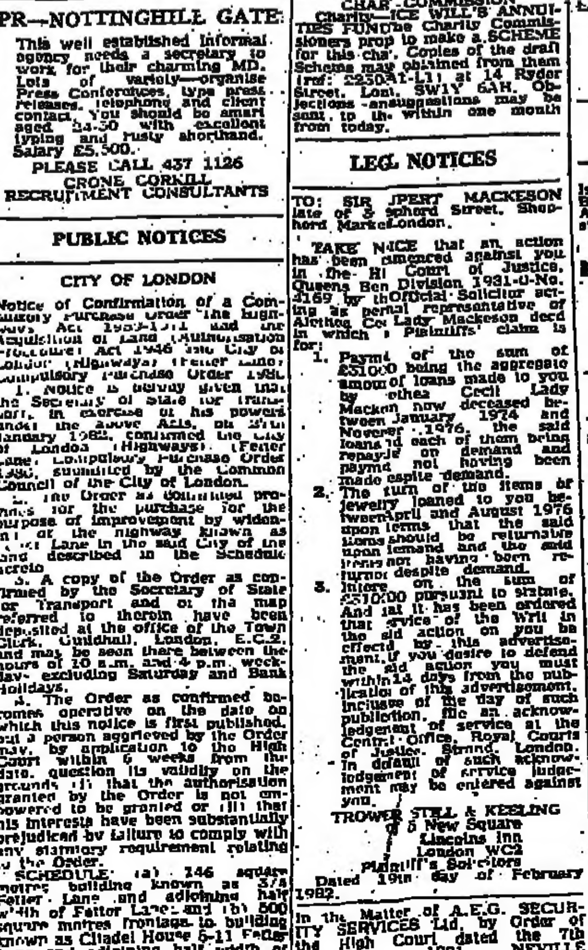
Perhaps the most impressive thing about the engine is its refinement. Turning over at 70mph in fifth at only 2,800 rpm, you would expect it to be quiet; but even under hard acceleration the smoothness remains and noise is negligible. The smooth shape of the car means that the wind is not intrusive either.

Light weight and a low drag factor help to give excellent fuel consumption. The official figures of 29.1mpg in town, 48.7 at 56mph and 37.7 at 75mph are better than most of the obvious competitors. Even crawling about in London traffic jams I did not go below 28mpg and my open road return was 35mpg.

On ride and handling Datsun has adopted almost a French solution. In other words, the car is softly sprung, absorbs the bumps well, and sets up a prodigious amount of body roll on corners.







PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LONDON

Notice of Confirmation of a Compulsory Purchase Order The Highways Act 1959-1971 and the Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure) Act 1946 The City of London (Highways) (Fetter Lane) Compulsory Purchase Order 1980.

1. Notice is hereby given that the Secretary of State for Transport, in exercise of his powers under the above Acts, on 27th January 1982, confirmed the City of London (Highways) (Fetter Lane) Compulsory Purchase Order 1980, submitted by the Common Council of the City of London.

2. The Order as confirmed provides for the purchase for the purpose of improvement by widening of the highway known as Fetter Lane in the said City of the land described in the Schedule hereto.

3. A copy of the Order as confirmed by the Secretary of State for Transport and of the map referred to therein have been deposited at the office of the Town Clerk, Guildhall, London, E.C.2. and may be seen there between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays excluding Saturday and Bank Holidays.

4. The Order as confirmed becomes operative on the date on which this notice is first published, but a person aggrieved by the Order may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks from that date, question its validity on the grounds (i) that the authorisation granted by the Order is not empowered to be granted or (ii) that his interests have been substantially prejudiced by failure to comply with any statutory requirement relating to the Order.

SCHEDULE (a) 146 square metres building known as 3/4 Fetter Lane and adjoining half width of Fetter Lane and (b) 500 square metres frontage to building known as Citadel House 5-11 Fetter Lane and adjoining half width of Fetter Lane.

Dated the 18th day of February 1982.

S. J. CLAYTON Town Clerk

Guildhall, London, EC2P 2EJ.

PU[BLI]C NOTICES

CHAR[ITY] COMMISSION

Charity—[...]ICE WILL'S ANNUITIES FUND. The Charity Commissioners prop[ose] to make a SCHEME for this cha[rity]. Copies of the draft Scheme may obtained from them (ref: 225041-L1) at 14 Ryder Street, Lon[don] SW1Y 6AH. Objections and suggestions may be sent to th[em] within one month from today.

LEG[AL] NOTICES

TO: SIR [R]OPERT MACKESON late of 3 [Sh]epherd Street, Shepherd Market London.

TAKE N[OT]ICE that an action has been commenced against you in the Hi[gh] Court of Justice, Queens Ben[ch] Division 1981-0-No. 4169 by th[e] Official Solicitor acting as personal representative of Aletha Co[...] Lady Mackeson decd in which [the] Plaintiffs' claim is for:

1. Payment of the sum of £31000 being the aggregate amount of loans made to you by [...] Cecil Lady Macken now deceased between January 1974 and Novemer 1976, the said loans [an]d each of them being repayable on demand and payment not having been made despite demand.

2. The turn of the items of jewelry loaned to you between April and August 1976 upon terms that the said items should be returnable upon demand and the said items not having been returned despite demand.

3. Interest on the sum of £310000 pursuant to statute.

And that it has been ordered that service of the Writ in the said action on you be effected by this advertisement. If you desire to defend the said action you must within 14 days from the publication of this advertisement, inclusive of the day of such publication, file an acknowledgement of service at the Central Office, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London. In default of such acknowledgement of service judgement may be entered against you.

TROWER STILL & KEELING of 5 New Square Lincolns Inn London WC2 Plaintiff's Solicitors

Dated 19th day of February 1982.

In the Matter of A.E.G. SECURITY SERVICES Ltd, by Order of the High Court dated the 7th December 1981, NEVILLE ECKLEY, F.C.A., of 10 Bramley Hill, South Croydon, has been appointed Liquidator of the above-named company without a committee of inspection.

Dated 9th February, 1982.

NEVILLE ECKLEY Liquidator

PERSONAL

Also on page 22

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 21

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

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But equally, we need your help to continue and expand our work. Please support us with a donation, in memoriam gift, or a legacy.
The CHEST, HEART and STROKE ASSOCIATION
Tavistock House North (T)
Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JE

BOOKS FOR THE BLIND

This is the Centenary Year of the National Library for the Blind, which has supplied specially prepared books in Braille and Moon on free loan to the sightless since 1882, enabling them to share the pleasures of reading. Please help us to continue to lighten their burden of darkness.
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RENTALS

Also on page 21

Recruitment Opportunities

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Mr J. R. Nicholls
c/o COMALCO (UK) LIMITED
132 Sloane Sreet, London, SW1
Interviews for this senior position will commence in London on the 1st March, extending to the 3rd March, 1982.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE REGISTRAR

The Registrar of the Architects Registration Council (set up under the Architects' Registration Acts) is responsible to the Council for administration and the implementation of its decisions.
The Council's main responsibilities are to maintain and monitor a Register of all architects, to consider admissions to and removals from the Register, to determine educational standards for architectural registration and to administer funds for architectural educations.
The Personal Assistant will be responsible to the Registrar for the day to day conduct of much of this work and in assisting committees in their deliberations; he/she will ...

SAUDI ARABIA

The following personnel are required for employment with prestigious development in RIYADH.

EXPERT IN HOSPITALS PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT
Qualification: A Fellow of a British Royal College, or equivalent.
Experience: 20 years in general medicine, 10 years of which in hospital management, including the capability for setting criteria for medical services, planning, controlling and evaluating training courses.

MAINTENANCE EXPERT IN INSTRUMENTS AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
Qualifications: University Degree in (Electrical, Electronic, Mechanical) Engineering and a Fellow of an appropriate professional institution.
Experience: 15 years in administration of engineering services in a Medical establishment, 6 years of which in a senior position.

PERSONAL EXPERT
Qualifications: University Degree and Fellowship of the British Institute of Management or equivalent.
Experience: 20 years in personnel field, 10 years of which in Hospital Personnel, 5 years at least in senior position including manpower planning, personnel policies, preparation for statics, financial statements and reports.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES EXPERT
Qualifications: M.Sc or Ph.D in Pharmacy.
Experience: 15 years as a Pharmacist, 10 years of which as Director of Medical supplies for 500-bed hospital (at least), including planning, development and establishment of Medical supplies systems, including preparation for provision, procurement, receipt and distribution of medical supplies and instruments.

EXPERT IN MEDICAL RECORDS AND HEALTH STATISTICS
Qualifications: M.Sc or Ph.D in Statistics.
Experience: 15 years experience in Statistics, 10 years of which were in Health Statistics and Medical Records, including planning, organisation and management of a Health Statistics and Medical Records Department. Experience in computer and micro-films is necessary.

CONSULANT PATHOLOGIST OR MICROBIOLOGIST
Qualifications: MRC Path or equivalent M.Sc or Ph.D in Microbiology.
Experience: 20 years in GP of which 10 years in management, not less than 5 years of these in a senior position in a health laboratory. Wide experience in planning, organisation and evaluation of requirements and development of laboratory services is essential.

LAWYER
Qualifications: Ph.D in private law with a degree not less than "TOP Credit" from recognized University. Subject of Ph.D is to be relating to contracts law.
Experience: Not less than 15 years experience in the field of local and foreign contracts.

FINANCIAL ANALYST
Qualifications: M.Sc in Economics.
Experience: Not less than 15 years experience in financial analysis, projects estimation and study of economical feasibility and estimative budget and costs.

CONSULTANT IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS
Qualifications: M.Sc in Computers.
Experience: 16 years increasing responsibility in the field of data processing. The last 6 years in management and supervision of systems development and operation of capital projects.

EXPERT IN SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT
Qualifications: University Degree in Computers.
Experience: 15 years experience in data processing of which:—
1. 6 years substantial experience was in systems development.
2. 5 years experience (Last) was in the supervision of development of capital projects systems.

EXPERT IN COMPUTER OPERATION
Qualifications: University Degree in Computers.
Experience: 10 years experience of which the first 5 years was as an operator of computers of various sizes and systems, and the last 5 years in the supervision and management of operation of large computers and various systems.

CIVIL ENGINEER
Qualifications:
1. M.Sc in Civil Engineering.
2. Chartered Engineer, Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers or equivalent.
Experience: 15 years experience in capital projects like hospital and townships. Of the 15 years, the last 5 in a senior position.

ARCHITECT
Qualifications:
1. M.Sc in Architecture.
2. Royal Institute of British Architects or equivalent.
Experience: 15 years experience on capital projects, with at least the last 5 years in a senior management position.

QUANTITY-SURVEYOR
Qualifications: FRICS or equivalent.
Experience: 15 years experience on capital projects, with the last 5 years at least in a senior management position.

MECHANICAL ENGINEER
Qualifications:
1. M.Sc in Mechanical Engineering.
2. Chartered engineer and Member of the Institucion of Mechanical Engineers or equivalent.
Experience: 15 years experience on capital projects with the last 5 years at least in a senior position.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
Qualifications:
1. MSc in Electrical Engineering.
2. Chartered engineer and Member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers or equivalent.
Experience: 15 years experience on capital projects with the last 5 years at least in a senior position.

These positions have Tax Free salaries, suitable accommodation, free car and other attractive fringe benefits.
Applications are to be submitted in duplicate including Curriculum Vitae and a recent photograph together with the names and addresses of 2 referees no later than the last week of February 1982 to:—

SAUDI ARABIAN NATIONAL GUARD OFFICE (NG 1)
45 Princes Gate Exhibition Road LONDON SW7

هكذا من الأصل

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

.40 Open University. Control Systems; Perceiving Wilderness; Potsdam(1); 9.00 For Schools, Colleges: The line-up is: — Biology; Play Tennis; Look and Read; It's Maths!; Maths File; Hyn Fud (Pentigarw); Talkabout; Going to Work; and Plants in Action; 12.30 News After Noon: 12.57 Financial Report. And news headlines; 1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Includes Peter Seabrook's gardening item, and another in the Living with Leisure series; 1.45 Bagpuss: for the tiny tots; 2.02 For Schools, Colleges: Scene — Britain's Nuclear Defence (r) and, at 2.35 A Good Job with Prospects: Taking Responsibility (r); 3.20 Pobol y Cwm: serial in Welsh; 3.55 Play School: see BBC 2 at 11.00 am for details.

.20 Winsome Witch: cartoon; 4.25 Jackanory: Prunella Scales reads part five of Bogwoppit, by Usula Moray Williams.

.40 Finders Keepers: Inter-school electronic battleships game. Beckenham pupils versus Kenilworth pupils. Richard Stilgoe is referee.

.05 Grange Hill: school serial, part 14. Clare lets her secret passion out of the bag; 5.35 Ivor the Engine: The Cuckoo Clock (r).

.40 News: with Jan Leeming; 6.00 South East at Six; 6.22 Nationwide: with Desmond Lynam's Sportswide at 6.45.

.00 Thanks a Million: Terry Wogan on the result of the Children in Need appeal.

.10 The Superstars: Eight sportswomen compete for the Ferguson Championship. They are: Shirley Strong, Verona Elder, Beryl Mitchell, Jane Bridge, Muriel Thomson, Margaret Kelly, Karen Morse and Suzanne Dando.

.00 Fame is the Spur: Episode 7. Labour's split on pacifism gives Hamer his big chance. With Tim Pigott-Smith.

.50 Points of View: with Barry Took.

.00 News: with John Simpson. And weather prospects for the weekend.

.25 McClain's Law: After last week's curtain-raiser, the new drama series begins. Former Police officer Jim McClain (James Arness) swears to find the killer of a young narcotics agent. He sets a trap.

.15 Ballroom Champions: The United Kingdom Championships, from the Hammersmith Palais. Couples compete for the Amateur Modern and the Professional Latin American titles. The music is provided by Andy Ross. Next Friday: the amateur modern and professional Latin American titles.

.35 Film: You Only Live Once* (1937) Drama, directed by Fritz Lang, about a criminal who tries to go straight but finds the cards are stacked against him. Starring Henry Fonda and, as the girl who tries to help him keep to the straight and narrow, Sylvia Sidney. Also starring Barton MacLane, Jean Dixon and William Gargan. Ends at 1.05 am.

BBC 2

6.40 Open University. Biology Form and Function; 7.05 Ecology; 7.30 Making the Connections; 11.00 Play School: Margaret Kidd's story Shobhana. With Marilyn Hirsh's illustrations. (also on BBC 1, at 3.55); 11.25 Closedown; 3.55 Around with Alliss: Another in this series in which Peter Alliss combines the jobs of golfer and interviewer. Today, he plays against, and chats with, Group Captain Douglas Bader. You might remember Kenneth More, as Bader in Reach for the Sky, bravely driving off on the golf course despite his physical handicap (r).

4.25 The Glazebrook Touch. A second chance to see this warmly-received documentary about Bob Glazebrook, who looks after 100 grand pianos as Steinway's senior concert technicians (r).

5.10 Paris: Imperial City: life in the 19th Century (r); 5.35 Weekend Outlook: Open University programme preview.

5.40 Film: Sherlock Holmes: Pearl of Death* (1944) The murderous Creeper is on the prowl. With Basil Rathbone, Nigel Bruce, Rondo Hatton.

6.45 Heroes: Chris Bonington's idols include Churchill and Felicity Kendall.

7.15 The Oxford Road Show: live from Manchester; 7.55 News.

8.00 Gardeners' World: It's sowing time again.

8.25 Newsweek: Proportional Representation. Is it inevitable?

9.00 The Family Brown Sings Country: Short concert by the Canadian country music group.

9.25 Playhouse: The Workshop. Tom Kempinski's translation of Jean-Claude Grunberg's play. Starring Lynn Farleigh, Lee Montague and Caroline Hutchinson. Tom Kempinski is, perhaps, best-known for his award-winning play Duet for One. The setting is a tailoring workshop in Paris in 1945. The theme is renewal.

10.50 Newsnight: bulletins and comment.

11.35 Friday Night . . . Saturday Morning. The host tonight is Germaine Greer and the theme of the chat is Sex and Sexuality. Mary Whitehouse, and Whitehouse magazine publisher David Sullivan are among those taking part. Ends at 12.30am.

ITV/LONDON

9.35 For Schools. The line-up is: Reading with Lenny; How We Used to Live; 1 . . 2 . . 3 . . Go; Physics in Action; Geography; Alive and Kicking; Stop Look Listen; Documentary Re-run; 11.15 Comic Stories; 12.00 Song Book: with Kathy Jones, Leo Dove, Hedley Kay; 12.10 Once Upon a Time: with Peter Davison; 12.30 Simply Sewing: How to make a simple Chanel-type suit (r); 1.00 News; 1.20 Thames area news; 1.30 Take the High Road: Scottish estate serial; 2.00 After Noon Plus: Elaine Grand interviews Blossom Dearie, the American singer and song writer; 2.45 Film. A Cup of Kindness* (1934) Old British comedy about a feud between two families, and a spot of blackmail. Starring Tom Walls, Ralph Lynn, Robertson Hare, the famous Aldwych farce trio.

4.15 Dr Snuggles: with Peter Ustinov's voice (r); 4.20 Razzmatazz: Pop music show. With Haircut 100, Depeche Mode, The Nolans.

4.45 Jukes of Piccadilly: Comedy drama with Nigel Hawthorne as the amateur sleuth. Episode 2 of The Dulverton Green, which is about an escaped prisoner, a hidden brooch, and a wedding.

5.15 Square One: The Joe Brown board game. Star guests are Dave Lee Travis and Sally Watts. It's all in aid of charity.

5.45 News; 6.00 The 6 o'Clock Show: The lighter side of the news scene. With Michael Aspel and Janet Street-Porter. And Fred Housego.

7.00 Family Fortunes: Quiz. The Colmans of Leyton against the Westgates of Norwich.

7.30 Hawaii Five-O: McGarrett poses as a merchant seaman to forestall a waterfront strike. With Jack Lord.

8.30 We'll Meet Again: New drama series about the impact on a quiet Suffolk village of a contingent of US Air Force men in the Second World War. Starring Susannah York (see Choice)

10.00 News from ITN.

10.30 Bizarre: Comedy series, imported from the United States. Intended to appeal to viewers with an adult sense of humour. Only fitfully does it make this kind of contact.

11.00 The London Programme: Football — Sick as a Parrot? An inquiry into the malaise which is affecting the game, with an average fall of 16 per cent in the gates (the figure is about 30 per cent for some Fourth Division clubs), huge transfer fees, high salaries demanded by players, and irresponsible management. This programme examines some of the unusual methods which two London clubs are adopting to overcome their financial problems. The clubs are Fulham and Crystal Palace.

11.35 Thriller: Once the Killing Starts: There's a blackmail attempt after a professor has killed his wife so that he can continue his romance with one of his students. With Patrick O'Neal, Angharad Rees, Michael Kitchen.

12.55 Close: with Elisabeth Lutyens.

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.30 Today.
8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 Desert Island Discs. Castaway: Sir Christopher Leaver.
9.45 Feedback. Your views on BBC radio and TV.
10.00 News.
10.02 International Assignment.
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 Morning Story: "Desire" by Leslie Halward.
11.00 News.
11.05 Great Families of Britain. A series of radio portraits (5) The Percy out of Northumberland.
11.50 Bird of the Week: The mistle thrush.
12.00 News.
12.02 You and Yours†
12.27 My Word! Panel Game†
12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.40 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.02 Woman's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.02 Play: "The Last Recording" by Douglas Slater†
4.05 Poetry Please!†
4.15 Victims (new series) Who Are the Victims?
4.45 Story Time: "An Old Captivity" by Neville Shute (final part).
5.00 PM.
6.00 News and Financial Report.
6.30 Going Places.
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Pick of the Week†
8.10 The Week in Synod.
8.30 Any Questions?
9.15 Letter from America.
9.30 Kaleidoscope.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.35 Week Ending†
11.00 A Book at Bedtime: "Charmed Lives" by Michael Korda (final part).
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
11.45 Glyn Worsnip delves into the BBC Sound Archives.
12.00 News and Weather.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert. Bach, Scarlatti, Crusell; records.†
8.00 News.
8.05 Morning Concert (continued) Liszt, Flotow, Rachmanivov, Tchaikovsky; records.†
9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composer: Dvorak; records.†
10.00 Telemann recital.†
10.50 French Music for Piano Duet: Recital: Jean-Michel Damase, Satie, Florent Schmitt.†
11.30 American Choral Music: Elliot Carter, Jacob Druckman, David Wooldridge.†
12.15 Midday Concert. Direct from Henry Wood Hall, Glasgow. Part 1: Vaughan Williams, David Gow.†
1.00 News.
1.05 Interlude.
1.20 Midday Concert. Part 2: Dvorak.†
2.05 Jane Manning with Capricorn: Gerhard, Joaquim Homs, Josep Soler Hindemith.
3.10 Butsch Quartet Plays Beethoven: on record.
4.00 Choral Evensong from the Queen's Free Chapel of St. George, Windsor Castle.
4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure.†
6.55 Play it Again. Preview of tomorrow's programme with Nicholas Anderson.†
7.00 Vaughan Williams on record.†
7.30 Beethoven and Schubert. Parikan/Fleming/Roberts Trio recital. Part 1.†
8.00 A Country Tapestry. An arrangement of poetry and prose.
8.20 Concert. Part 2.†
9.20 Music in our Time. Music from the 1981 International Rostrum of Composers: Myke Roy, Ib Norholm, Jean Piche.†
10.15 Books, Music and Lyrics. A personal view of musicals from Robert Cushman.†
11.00 News.
11.05 Scriabin. On record.†
5.55 VHF ONLY — Open University.

Radio 2

5.00 Ray Moore.† 7.30 Terry Wogan.† 10.00 Jimmy Young.† 12.03 pm Gloria Hunniford.† 2.00 Ed Stewart.† 4.00 David Hamilton.† 5.45 News and Sport. 6.00 John Dunn.† 8.00 Take Your Partners.† 8.45 Friday Night is Music Night.† 10.00 Listen to Les. 10.30 Anything for a Laugh. 11.15 Brian Matthew from midnight.† 1.00 am Truckers' Hour.† 2.00-5.00 You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

5.00 As Radio 1 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Dave Lee Travis. 2.00 pm Paul Burnett. 3.30 Steve Wright. 5.30 Newsbeat. 5.45 Roundtable. 7.00 Andy Peebles. 10.00 The Friday Rock Show.† 12.00 Midnight Close.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave (648 kHz 463m) at the following times GMT: 6.00am Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary. 7.30 Backtracking. 7.45 Merchant Navy Programme. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 Divertimento. 8.30 Smash of the Day: The Navy Lark. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Music Now. 10.15 Merchant Navy Programme. 10.30 Business Matters. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News about Britain. 11.15 In the Meantime. 11.25 Ulster Newsletter. 11.30 Meridian. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15pm Jazz for the Asking. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary. 1.30 The Ages of Man. 2.15 Letterbox. 2.30 John Peel. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Outlook. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Science in Action. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Just a Minute. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary. 9.15 Twentieth Century Folk. 9.45 Letter From London. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 The Week in Wales. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 From the Weeklies. 11.30 Thirty Minute Theatre. 12.00 World News. 12.09am News About Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 About Britain. 12.45 Sarah and Company. 1.15 Outlook. 1.45 Music for the Harpsichord. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Network U K. 2.30 People and Politics. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News About Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 A Word in Edgeways. 4.00 Newsdesk. 5.45 The World Today.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1 MF 1053kHz/285m or 1089kHz/275m. Radio 2 MF 693kHz/433m or 909kHz/330m. Radio 1/2 VHF 88-91MHz. Radio 3 VHF 9 0-92.5MHz, MF 1215kHz/247m. Radio 4 LF 200kHz/1500m and VHF 92-95MHz . Greater London Area MF 720kHz/417m. LBC MF 1152khz/261m, VHF 97.3MHz. Capital MF 1548kHz/194m, VHF 95.8MHz. BBC Radio London MF 1458kHz/206m and VHF 94.9MHz. World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1

BBC Cymru/Wales: 12.57-1.00 pm News of Wales. 1.45-2.02 Y Cowboi Bach. 2.35-3.00 I Ysgolion. 3.20-3.55 Closedown. 5.05-5.35 Olwynion. 6.00-6.22 Wales Today. 7.10-7.30 Heddiw. 7.30-8.00 Pobol y Cwm. 10.15-11.05 Week In Week Out. 11.05-11.06 News. 11.06-12.36am Film: The Anniversary (Bette Davis). Scotland: 11.00-12.22am For Schools. 12.55-1.00pm Scottish News. 3.20-3.55 Closedown. 6.00-6.22 Reporting Scotland. News. 10.15-10.45 Scottish Radio and Television Awards 1981. 10.45-10.50 Scottish news headlines. Northern Ireland: 11.00-11.22am Closedown. 12.57-1.00pm News. 3.20-3.53 Closedown. 3.53-3.55 News. 6.00-6.22 Scene Around Six. 10.15-10.45 Spotlight. 10.45-10.50 News headlines. 1.05am News headlines.
England: 6.00-6.22 pm Regional news magazines

Channel

As London except: 11.55 am-12.00 Look and See 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45 -4.15 Film: Colour Scheme. Murder, espionage and sabotage at a run-down guest house. 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm. 6.00 Channel Report. 6.30-7.00 Link Up. 7.30-8.30 Hart to Hart. 10.28 News. 10.35 Aujourd 'hui en France. 10.40 Mysterious Tales. 10.45 Three's Company. 11.15 Film: Shock Treatment: Woman goes to a clinic for treatment, only to find it is not what it seems. 12.45 am Closedown.

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 1.20 News 2.45 Film: Hell's Island (John Payne). Crooks congregate in the Caribbean in search of a famous ruby. 6.00 Calendar. 6.30-7.00 Sport. 7.30-8.30 Fall Guy. 10.30 Bizarre. 11.00 Film: File it Under Fear (Maureen Lipman, Richard O'Calleghan). Two girls are murdered in a small country town, and the librarian believes that she alone has the key to the case. 12.25am Closedown.

ANGLIA

As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film: Young and Innocent (Nova Pilbeam, Derrick de Marney). Hitchcock thriller, with film star found dead on the seashore. 6.00-7.00 About Anglia. 7.30-8.30 Fall Guy. 10.30 Bizarre. 11.00 Members Only. 11.30 Film: Rabbit Run (James Caan). Husband on the run from his alcoholic wife, a demanding mistress and an interfering churchman. 1.10 am I Was Reading.

GRANADA

As London, except: 11.54 am-12.00 Wattoo, Wattoo. 1.20 pm Granada Reports. 1.30 Exchange Flags. 2.00 Take the High Road. 2.30-4.15 Film: Green for Danger.* (Trevor Howard). Wartime mystery set in a London emergency hospital. 6.00 Kick Off. 6.30-7.00 Granada Reports. 7.30-8.30 Fall Guy. 10.30 Bizarre. 11.00 Week on Friday. 11.30 Film: Love in the Suburbs. Newly-married couple find themselves a flat in the suburbs of Paris, and their problems begin. 1.15 am Closedown.

TYNE TEES

As London except: Starts 9.25 am Good Word. 9.30-9.35 News. 1.20 pm-1.30 News, Lookaround. 2.45-4.15 Film: Rhodes of Africa.* (Walter Huston). Story of Cecil Rhodes in Africa. 6.00 News. 6.02 Sportstime. 6.30-7.00 Northern Life. 7.30-8.30 Fall Guy. 10.30 News. 10.32 Friday Live. 12.00 Superstar Profile: Michael Douglas. 12.30 Poet's Corner. 12.40 Closedown.

BORDER

As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film: Where Time Began (Kenneth More) Professor discovers a strange manuscript about a voyage to the centre of the earth. 6.00 Lookaround. 6.30-7.00 That's Hollywood. 7.30-8.30 Fall Guy. 10.30 Your MP. 11.00 Bizarre. 11.30 News. 11.33 Closedown.

GRAMPIAN

As London except: Starts 9.30am-9.35 First Thing. 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.45-4-15 Film: Murder, She Said* (Margaret Rutherford, Arthur Kennedy). Agatha Christie's Miss Marple sees a train passenger strangled, but no one believes her. 6.00 North Tonight. 7.30-8.30 Fall Guy. 10.30 Streets of San Francisco. 11.30 Curling from Perth. 12.20am News. 12.25 Closedown.

ULSTER

As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Lunchtime. 2.45-4.15 Film: Escape to Burma (Barbara Stanwyck, Robert Ryan). Woman plantation owner's life is disturbed by a handsome stranger. 5.15 Hear Here. 5.30-5.45 Good Evening Ulster. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 6.30-7.00 Diff'rent Strokes. 7.30-8.30 Fall Guy. 10.30 Winess. 10.35 Counterpoint Special. 11.05 Benson. 11.35 News at Bedtime. Closedown.

SCOTTISH

As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News 2.45-4.15 Film: Hell's Island. Crooks congregate in the Caribbean in search for a famous ruby. 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.25 Sports Extra. 6.45-7.00 Hear Hear. 7.30-8.30 Charlie's Angels. 10.30 Ways and Means. 11.00 Bizarre. 11.30 Curling from Perth. 12.15am Late Call. 12.20 Closedown.

TVS

As London except: 1.20pm-7.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film: Hell's Island (John Payne). Crooks congregate in the Caribbean in search of a famous ruby. 5.15 Watch This Space. 5.30-5.45 Coast to Coast. 6.00 Coast to Coast. 6.30-7.00 Friday Sportshow. 7.30-8.30 Fall Guy. 11.00 Film: Blood on Satan's Claw (Patrick Wymark). Violence and mutilation in a seventeenth century village. 12.45am Company followed by Closedown.

CENTRAL

As London except: 11.35-12.00 Something Different. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45 Film: The Card* (Alec Guinness, Glynis Johns) Bright young clerk finds many ingenious ways of improving his bank account and his place in society. 4.10-4.15 Windows. 6.00 -7.00 News. 7.30-8.30 Fall Guy. 10.30 Bizzare. 11.00 News. 11.05 Film: Tunes of Glory (Alec Guinness, John Mills). Disciplinarian CO of a highland regiment crosses swords with his lax, hard-drinking predecessor. 1.10 am Closedown.

TSW

As London except: 11.55 am-12.00 News. 2.45-4.15 Film: Colour Scheme. Murder, espionage and sabotage at a rundown guest house. 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm. 6.00 Today South West. 6.30-7.00 What's Ahead. 7.30-8.30 Hart to Hart. 10.32 News. 10.35 Postscript. 10.40 Mysterious Tales. 10.45 Three's Company. 11.15 Film: Shock Treatment. Woman goes to a clinic for treatment, only to discover that it is not what it seems. 12.46 am Closedown.

HTV WEST

As London except: 11.50pm-12.00 Cartoon. 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film: Lost (David Farrar, David Knight) Baby son of an American couple in London goes missing. 5.15-5.45 Benson. 6.00 News. 6.30-7.00 Mr and Mrs. 7.30-8.30 Fall Guy. 10.28 News. 10.30 Good Neighbour Show. 11.00 Young Down and Outs. 11.40 Film: Lost Honour of Katharina Blum (Angella Winkler) German film of an innocient girl who gets involved with a suspected bank robber. 1.40am Closedown.

HTV CYMRU/WALES

As HTV West except: 11.34am-11.49 About Wales. 12.00-12.10pm Ffalabalam. 4.15-4.45 Aderyn Anlwcus? 6.00 Y Dydd. 6.15-6.30 Report Wales. 10.30-11.00 Outlook.

CHOICE

Michael J Shannon: We'll Meet Again (ITV, 8.30 pm)

● WE'LL MEET AGAIN (ITV, 8.30), a new drama series about the invasion of Britain by the United States Air Force in 1943, will provide meagre pickings for sociologists. They already know all there is to know aobut the upheaval caused by the clash between these two nations divided by a common language. "The England we've known and loved has gone for ever", laments local squire to pretty wife before going off to war. It sounds like a premature judgment on the Americans who have just roared into the picture-book East Anglian town. But we know, (though he doesn't) that meaningful looks are being exchanged between both his wife and daughter and the newly-arrived American major. Clearly, We'll Meet Again has been cast in an escapist mould and, within its own self-imposed limits (i.e. characters drawn from stock) it provides enjoyable entertainment.

● FAME IS THE SPUR reaches its seventh and penultimate episode (BBC 1, 8.00). It is almost too late for a progress report. But there's still time to record this viewer's astonishment at the way Elaine Morgan has telescoped this diffuse book into a series of dramatic climaxes, spanning decades with ease and deftly sketchng in the shifting political backdrops. Miss Morgan has been lucky with her cast. You can see most of the regulars in action tonight, including Julia McKenzie's plucky Pen, Joanna David's quietly strong Ann and David Hayman's sympathetic Arnold. Most difficult to play has been Hamer, the archetypal political opportunist. Tim Pigott-Smith has only occasionally let the slippery customer slide from his grasp. He has, however, had less assistance from the make-up department than the rest of the cast whose gradual ageing has been wonderful to watch.

● THE LAST RECORDING (Radio 4, 3.02) is by the dramatist/musicologist Douglas Slater whose play The Not So Merry Widow I much enjoyed. It is pegged to the last recording Elgar ever made. He lies on his death bed, relaying messages to the conductor far away in the studio and listening to the music as it is relayed back to him: Timothy West, formerly Beecham, is now Elgar.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: † STEREO * BLACK AND WHITE (r) REPEAT

Entertainments Guide

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Personal Trade	01-278 9351

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Queries in connection with advertisements that have appeared, other than cancellations or alterations, tel.: Classified Queries Department 01-837 1234, Extn 7180

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The deadline for all copy is one clear publishing day.
i.e., Monday is the deadline for Wednesday, Friday for Monday and Tuesday. Stops and Alterations to copy is 3.0 p.m. prior to the day of publication; for Monday's issue the deadline is 5.30pm on Friday. On all cancellations a Stop Number will be issued to the advertiser. On any subsequent queries regarding the cancellation, this Stop Number must be quoted.

Classified Rates

Personal Columns	£3.25 per line (min 2 lines) £17.50 per cm semi-display (min 3 cms) £20.00 per cm full display (min 3 cms)
Appointments	£3.25 per line (min 2 lines) £17.50 per cm semi-display (min 3 cms) £20.00 per cm full display (min 3 cms)
Property	£3.25 per line (min 2 lines) £17.50 per cm semi-display (min 3 cms) £20.00 per cm full display (min 3 cms)
Weekend Shoparound	£14.00 per cm full display (min 5 cms)
Court Circular	£5.00 per line
Box Numbers	£5.00

New study shows risk of delay in starting a family

From Peter Watson, New York, Feb 18

Many professional women now weigh carefully the question of when to have children. Particularly, they ask themselves whether they should delay childbirth until after they are 30 in exchange for career development.

An important, large-scale French study, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* reveals that the risks of a delay are greater than doctors had believed. It shows that the fecundity of women declines significantly after 31, and markedly after 35. The *Journal* concludes in an editorial that women may have to think again about delaying childbirth beyond the third decade of their lives.

It has been known for some time that older women face more difficulties in having children than do younger ones. But until now it has always been very difficult to calculate exactly how a woman's fecundity changes with age, for two reasons:

First, it is not always possible to tell whether the woman or the man is the source of the problem. Wives and husbands grow old together and male fecundity may also decline with age. Second, sexual intercourse becomes less frequent as a marriage grows longer and this clearly affects the figures.

The French study, carried out jointly by doctors at the Centre d'Etude et de Conservation du Sperme Humain and the Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale, got round this by looking at 2,193 women who had been inseminated artificially by frozen sperm.

The conditions of insemination were closely controlled at 11 centres around the country and so the age and sterility of the fathers was not a confusing factor in the results, and neither was the frequency of intercourse.

The results showed that after 12 cycles of artificial insemination, 73 to 74 per cent of women under the age of 31 had become pregnant but that this had dropped to 61 per cent for those aged between 31 and 35. There was a further marked drop in the conception rate, to 54 per cent, for those women over 35 years old.

Earlier studies have concluded that age does not influence the fecundity of women. But these have all used smaller groups of women than the new experiment.

It is not known exactly by which mechanism an older woman becomes less capable of reproduction. But it is known, according to the journal, that in experiments on other mammals such as rats, ovaries transplanted from older animals to younger ones behave normally, whereas ovaries from young animals implanted in older ones do not. This suggests the source of the problem is not in the ovary but in surrounding tissue.

The journal says that if the decline in fecundity after 30 is as great as the French investigation indicates: "New guidelines for counselling on reproduction may have to be formulated. At present, counselling regarding reproduction and age is generally limited to the increased risk of Down's Syndrome and other genetic abnormalities with advanced maternal age.

"Some physicians may also discuss the elevated risks of spontaneous abortion and perinatal death among women in older age groups. In addition the age of a woman should now be considered in deciding when to start an infertility work-up or stop treatment for infertility, and in selecting appropriate candidates for tubal surgery and in vitro fertilization.

"Individual and societal goals may also have to be re-evaluated. Perhaps the third decade should be devoted to childbearing and the fourth to career development, rather than the converse, which is true for many women today."

Down Mont Blanc by car

Paris, Feb 18.—A French stuntman who drove a car nearly a mile down the east face of Mont Blanc (15,770ft) yesterday, said afterwards: "I'm in a difficult field. You have to have stunts that are original and dangerous if you want to be known in this line of work."

Michel Chirouze, aged 37, made his record plunge in temperatures as low as –33°C with the wind gusting up to 90 mph down ice-packed slopes.

A helicopter lifted his Peugeot 104 to the Italian side of the mountain to begin his descent. The French banned him using their side.

Foot asks Pym for statement on 'Times'

Continued from page 1

"Nevertheless, it is now accepted that the validity of a transfer, albeit a transfer within the same group, without the consent of the independent directors, may well be open to doubt. I understand that accoridngly NIL has reversed the transfers already made; I also understand that a meeting of the independent national directors has been arranged at which NIL will seek consent to a transfer of titles, subject to suitable safeguards. At present, therefore, the matter is one primarily for the independent national directors."

News International last night said that the boards of both TNL and NIC had yesterday agreed to rescind the December decision "with the result that Times Newspapers Ltd has resumed absolute ownership of those titles".

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, said he was "very glad" that the transfer of titles was not to go ahead.

During Commons questions to Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the House, Mr Foot said he hoped the Government was now turning its mind to the next question — how *The Times* newspapers may be saved. "I hope Mr Pym will agree to have a statement made to the House next week, especially in the light of developments which took place about the transfer." Mr Pym said he would pass the request to Mr Biffen.

Last night Mr John Smith, Labour MP for Lanarkshire, North who earlier this week tabled a series of Parliamentary questions to Mr Biffen on the transfer said that the "surreptitious attempt" by the papers' proprietor Mr Rupert Murdoch to transfer the titles had "backfired" on him.

The whole episode smacked of "sharp practice" and showed how lightly Mr Murdoch regarded any incon- added: "Mr Biffen has been venient obligations. Mr Smith extremely indulgent in the way he has let Mr Murdoch off the hook. It is now up to the independent directors to look at any transfer of the titles with the greatest care".

Mr Noel Howell, National Union of Journalists's national officer for Fleet Street said last night that the union would write to the national directors immediately to urge them not to support a fresh transfer of the *Times* titles.

A man of our times: Sir Kenneth Cork

Herbie Knott



Rescue mission: Sir Kenneth Cork arrives at the Northern Ireland Offices for discussion on the De Lorean company which, he says needs £25m to stay afloat.

Wounded woman kills 20 soldiers

Continued from page 1

Hama a tourist haven, Syrian regular troops were digging new revetments for an assortment of Soviet-manufactured armoured vehicles, T62 tanks and heavy machine guns.

Every few minutes, a yellow-painted armoured Jeep would arrive with a clutch of female refugees in the back; they had been brought out of the city after 15 days and they asked for water the moment they stepped on to the road.

The seriousness of the fighting was evident from the words of an Army officer who took the place of the two soldiers in our car. A middle-aged man whose features were made deathly by a fine dust that covered his face and shoulders, he sat in silence for a few moments as we tried to negotiate one of Hama's main boulevards. There were shell holes in the houses, lamp standards and glass across the streets, and every few seconds he would urge us to drive faster as we crossed roads that seemed alive with sniper fire.

"Some of our people, our soldiers, have gone over to the other side", he said after a minute or so. "We are fighting our own people. Do you know that we have to fight underground? Those fanatics are fighting at us in cellars with rockets and yesterday we found an underground hospital. There are girls fighting with the 'Ikwan' (Brotherhood).

"One of them was wounded last night and when we went to capture her, she set off a grenade against her stomach and killed 20 of my friends".

The soldier paused; it was as if we were carrying the tensions of his battle in our car. Every few hundred yards we were stopped by groups of young Baathist militiamen holding automatic rifles, dressed improbably in flared white trousers and tight-fitting black shirts.

Another officer begged a lift. He seemed angry. "Why don't they let us fight on Golan instead of this?", he asked his colleague. The two men knew each other—both had their homes in Hama.

A convoy of ambulances drove past an intersection, red lights flashing, setting up a storm of dust along the half-ruined street. Several soldiers sat beside their tanks, covered in sweat and dirt. One of them had his arm in a sling but a dark red patch was beginning to show through it.

Hama is built on two levels, a lower inner city on the Orontes river where the street battles are going on, and a higher lip of land where new apartments and small bungalows have received some shell and mortar fire. There is a road that runs around this lip and when we reached it, for a few seconds, we could see little smoke storms moving upwards from the street beside the river.

Rows of women—almost all in long black robes—stood beside the road watching this scene, like spectators viewing a 19th century battle. A few were crying, others pleading for room in taxis. A policeman tried to control the army traffic—motor-cycle messengers, trucks, armoured personnel carriers each mounted with machine-guns at front and back—while a very few people stayed close to their homes beside the road. A flat, dun-coloured cloud hung over the city.

According to the girl in the blue head scarf, women and children had at first taken refuge in one of the Hama mosques. "They all thought it would be safe", she said. "Then the soldiers came and told them to leave and afterwards the mosque was bombed."

From the air or by guns, we asked? But she did not know. "They bombed the mosque", was all she said several times.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

MPs talk of crime and punishment

Mr Teddy Taylor (Southend, East, C) and Sir William Clark (Croydon South, C) yesterday demanded corporal punishment from the Home Secretary (for other people, presumably: nothing strange about those two, one hopes).

Sir Albert Costain (Folkestone and Hythe, C) put in a good word for castration (though only rapists need apply).

And Mr Alan Clark (Plymouth, Sutton, C) protested to the Prime Minister about "gangs of up to 50 young blacks looting shops in broad daylight".

On a more violent note, the House was menaced by a lobby organized by the ferociously-entitled "National Pensioners Convention steering committee."

But first, for enthusiasts for the age of steam, news of Mr Leslie Huckfield (Nuneaton, Lab). It had been a long time since he had been taken out of his shed. He was the pride of the Nuneaton-Wigan run. Time was when he would steam out at the end of question time with those applications for an emergency debate into the rail dispute, and folk would hurry down to watch his pro-Aslef propaganda whistle past before he was ruled out of order by the Speaker.

Well, yesterday was Aslef's day of victory. And we enthusiasts of the Huckfield and District Railway Society organized a special run. Mr Huckfield came into sight during the routine Thursday questions to Mr Pym, the Leader of the House, on the business for next week. "Is the Leader of the House aware that the settlement in the railway dispute provides a complete vindication of the position which Aslef has maintained throughout the dispute", he began. Puff, puff, puff, went Mr Huckfield happily. And that was only his chest.

"As a result of the settlement, the British Rail Board has gained nothing that it could not have had last July", he continued. "Could the Leader of the House arrange for a statement next week on the future policy of the railway industry and on the future policy of the chairman?"

Mr Pym tried to fob him off with the usual patter of defeated ministers after strikes, that it was "a great mistake to talk about a complete vindication of anyone". But no one believed that, least of all the exultant Mr Huckfield and his victims: the backbenchers of the commuter-front organization: the Conservative Party. The latter howled at Mr Huckfield as he sped by.

The rout of British Rail had demoralized the Tory backbenchers. Their morale slumped still further when, during questions to Home Office Ministers on the subject of rising crime, Mr Whitelaw and his colleagues were unable to offer corporal punishment to Mr Taylor and Sir William.

Mr Flannery, a Labour left-winger, shouted "miserable reactionary" and "slave owner" at Sir William. It was perhaps to restore a less controversial atmosphere that Sir Albert advocated castration instead. He asked Mr Mayhew, the Minister of State, whether his attention had been drawn to a letter sent to the Home Office "by a constituent of mine suggesting that rape is such a dreadful crime that castration is the only proper remedy."

Passions were running so high on the Tory benches yesterday, after Aslef's rape of Sir Peter Parker, that Mr Mayhew, a lawyer with a nice line in caution, replied that while sympathizing with the constituent's sense of abhorrence, "I think there might be certain practical problems". This seemed to reassure Sir Albert.

But virtually the whole afternoon was taken up with talk of muggings and thugs demanding money from old people—a subject only marginally less frightening for MPs than old people demanding money from MPs, which was the aim of that steering committee lurching round the building with a gang of determined old folk at the wheel.

One terrified old age pensioner, Mr Michael Foot, felt it prudent to join the gang. Three times during Prime Minister's questions he got up in an effort to prove that the pensioners were worse off under the Tories. Forewarned of the Grey Terror loose in the area, Mrs Thatcher came armed with a cudgel made of solid statistics. After their third exchange, she exasperatedly demanded of Mr Foot: "The Right Hon Gentleman has heard my reply. Which of the facts therein does he disagree with?"

Mr Foot has never been strong on facts. So wisely he replied from a seated position: "All of them."

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen holds an Investiture, 11.

New exhibitions

Manet to Toulouse-Lautrec: French Lithographs, 1860-1900, Art Gallery & Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (from today until April 12).

Drawings and paintings by students of Camberwell School of Art and Crafts, South London Art Gallery, Peckham Road, SE5; Mon to Sat 10 to 6, Sun 3 to 6; (from today until March 4).

Exhibitions in progress

Indian and Persian Miniatures, Graham Robertson Room, Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge; Tues to Sat 2 to 5, Sun 2.15 to 5; (until March 25).

Recent paintings by David Holmes, City Museum and Art Gallery, Priestgate, Peterborough; Tues to Sat 12 to 5; (until Feb 27).

Approaches to Modern Art Romanticism, Usher Art Gallery, Lindum Road, Lincoln; Mon to Sat, 10 to 5.30, Sun 2.30 to 5; (until Feb 28).

The Voyage of Life—ship imagery in art literature and life, University Art Gallery, Portland Building, University Park, Nottingham; Mon to Fri 11 to 7, Sat 11 to 5; (until March 25).

Lincolnshire at Work — Victorian and Edwardian photographs, Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln; Mon to Sat, 10 to 5.30, Sun 2.30 to 6; (until March 28).

Art of Japan; 17th-19th centuries, Adeane Gallery, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge; Tues to Sat 10 to 4.50, Sun 2.15 to 4.50; (until March 7).

Melanesia—artifacts from western Pacific Islands, Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Belfast; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Fri; (until February 28).

Life in Cities, Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5; (until March 26).

Whitechapel Open Exhibition—work by artists living and working in the City and E London, Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, E1; Sun to Fri 11 to 5.50, closed Sat; (until March 7).

Paintings, drawings and prints by Lynda Hopkins, Islington Central Library Gallery, 2 Fieldway Crescent, N5; Mon to Fri 9 to 8; Sat 9 to 5; (until Feb 27).

Japanese Popular Literature, 1600 to 1868, British Library, Great Russell Street, WC1, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 6; (until March 28).

Last chance to see

Work by Clifford Webb, Leicester Polytechnic, Leicester; Mon to Fri 10 to 3, Sat 10 to 1; (ends today).

General

Music and dance performance, children of Sneyd School, Sneyd Lane, Bloxwich, Walsall, 7.30

Talks, lectures

The Scarman Report, by Rudy Narayan, Students Union Arena, Leicester Polytechnic, 4 Newarke Close, Leicester, 1.

Music

Concert with Carlos Bonell on guitar, Henry Wood Hall, Claremont Street, Glasgow, 8.

Auctions

Christie's, South Kensington: Printed books, 10.30. Phillips, Blenheim Street: Silver and plate, 11. Sotheby's, Bond Street: Furniture, 11.

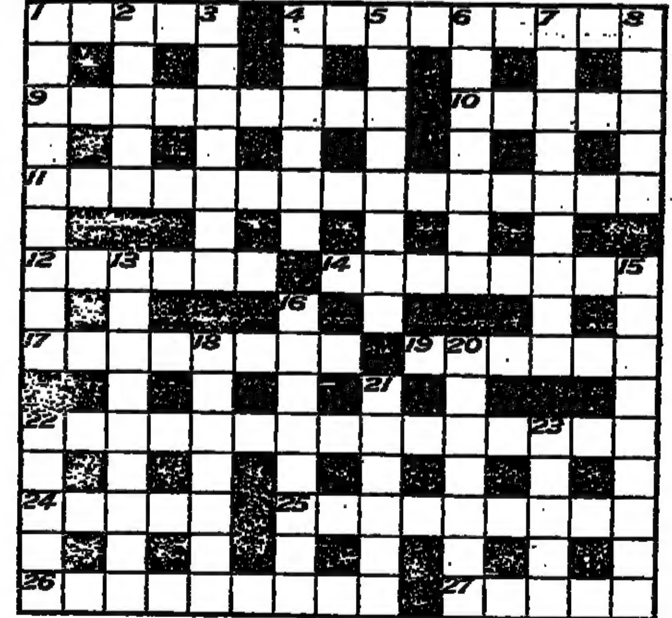
Viewing

Bonhams, Montpelier Street: Silver and plate, 9 to 4. Christie's, King Street: English and foreign coins, orders, campaign medals and banknotes, 9.15 to 4.30. Christie's, South Kensington: English and Continental watercolours and drawings, 9.15 to 4.30; Oriental ceramics, 9.15 to 4.30; old and modern silver, 9.15 to 4.30. Phillips, Blenheim Street: Silver and plate, 9 to 10.30; Old Master paintings; furniture, carpets and objects; fine jewels, all 9 to 4.30. Sotheby's, Bond Street: 19th century Continental paintings, 9.30 to 4.30. Sotheby's, Belgravia: Decorative arts, 9.30 to 4.30.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Dogs (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill and Restrictive Trade Practices (Amendment) Bill, second readings.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,760



ACROSS

1 Sound stone-fruit, but appears to sag (5)
4 Such a career for Gilbert's Frederic, Slave of Duty (9)
9 Carlyle's political economist a dismal one? (9)
10 Demoralize member of international organization (5)
11 One the state may perhaps appoint, entirely authorized (15)
12 Politician in Ireland's old music-hall (6)
14 Play that won a speed record (4, 4)
17 Was still besieging island that wouldn't surrender (8)
19 Sailor Queen in a convent? (6)
22 Artist of no high standing (8-7)
24 Low type of balloon (5)
25 No old settler once in the island (3, 6)
26 But the parson's has no connexion with lead (3-6)
27 Knock back oriental wine — a figure of speech (5)

DOWN

1 Soft fruit could be said at first to vanish (9)
2 Love to be a green girl (5)
3 In Puerto Rico gun-girl is carried by a donkey (7)
4 What's yours? Could be just my meat (6)
5 Some behaved so badly in Hamlet's stately home (8)
6 Public official finds plant-disease in part of course (7)
7 Pugnacious hairdresser upset Argentine lady (9)
8 British Isle has lovely borders and exotic interior (5)
13 Group isn't involved in striking attitudes (9)
15 Profane violation of seed packing-case (9)
16 In no real sense this property is private (8)
18 Sign of stinginess? (7)
20 Reserve A, we hear, is a bunch of 21s (7)
21 River bed growth? (6)
22 Like toothpaste coming out the wrong way (5)
23 See Colman act to music (5)

Solution of Puzzle No 15,759

COMMONWEALTH
ENLARGE TITANIC
LAMPOON RESPITE
IRONS GOODNIGHT
EXTRACTOR DECOR
LINCOLN EFFENDI
BRINGER VENTRAL
RESTLESSNESS

Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow

Travel

Pre-recorded travel information on Traveline—rail: 01-246 8030: road: 01-246 8031; sea: 01-246 8032; air: 01-246 8033.

Rail

Guards strike threatened at 20 depots in London and SE could mean widespread cancellations; latest details on Traveline (see above).

Roads

Midlands: M50: Lane closures between junctions 3 (Jays Green) and 4 (end of motorway). A6: Temporary signals at Matlock, Bath, Derbyshire. A5: Roadworks near Stretton Aquaduct between Telford and Gailey, Staffordshire.

North: M18/M180: Only one lane each way, Humberside. A64: Roadworks at Bramham crossroads (A1), W Yorkshire. A56: Roadworks at Hoole roundabout, Chester.

Wales and West: A30: Temporary lights at Fenny Bridges between Honiton and Exeter. A420: Width reductions at Lawrence Hill, Bristol. A4076: Width reduced at Johnston between Haverford West and Milford Haven.

Scotland: M8: Only one lane each way between junction 29 (St James Interchange) and 30 (Craigton Interchange). A76: Temporary signals N of Dumfries. A74: Lane closures at Johnstonebridge, Dumfriesshire.

Information supplied by the AA.

Air

Despite baggage handlers' strike, BA expect to operate about 90 per cent of European and domestic flights from Heathrow; shuttle and long haul flights unaffected.

Regular scheduled air services to and from Poland resume today after suspension of BA and LOT flights in December.

The papers

On the rail settlement, the Daily Mail says: "Sir Peter Parker, who is said to be one of the brighest of his generation at Oxford, has been completely outsmarted by Ray Buckton, who left school at 14", and calls for his resignation.

The Daily Mirror strongly condemns *The Sun* and the *Daily Star* for publishing pictures of "Princess Diana" on holiday in the Bahamas wearing a bikini and obviously pregnant. "The pictures were squalid in conception, furtive in execution and grubby in publication", the paper adds.

The Sun, justifying the use of the pictures, says: "Our readers have a legitimate interest in the royal family not merely as symbols but as living, breathing people." The Daily Star says: "We felt the British public would want to know that Diana was looking so well and lovely."

The Washington Post yesterday said Reagan's Middle East policy concentrated too much on security and too little on political issues: "He was asking for trouble and was getting it".

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Top 10 films

The top ten films in London:

1. Death Wish II
2. Arthur
3. Body Heat
4. Dragonslayer
5. Gallipoli
6. Fort Apache, The Bronx
7. The French Lieutenant's Woman
8. Rich And Famous
9. American Werewolf In London
10. The Woman Next Door

The top five in the provinces:

1. Fort Apache, The Bronx
2. Arthur
3. True Confessions
4. Christiane F
5. Zorro, The Gay Blade

Compiled by Screen International

Food prices

Greengrocers' shops are full of excellent buys, notably citrus fruits, apples, pears and root vegetables. Cabbages are of good quality but brussels sprouts, which suffered particularly from last month's cold snap, are still variable.

Beef prices may at last have reached a plateau. Many shops have reduced prices, particularly for rump steak, topside and silverside; lamb ranges from about £1.70 a pound for English leg to less than £1 for New Zealand shoulder; pork remains good value.

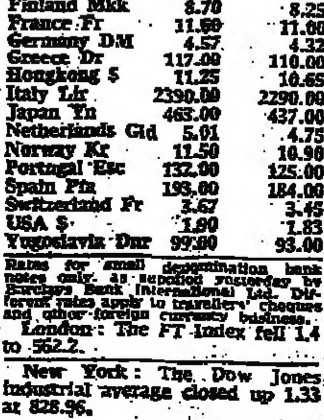
London season tickets

Tomorrow is the last day to buy London Transport monthly season tickets at low rates: no tickets valid for longer than a week will be sold from Sunday until fares increase on March 21. This also applies to Underground portion of through season tickets sold by BR.

Anniversaries today

Births: David Garrick, Hereford, 1717; Luigi Boccherini, Lucca, Italy, 1743; Robert Murchison, geologist, Tarradale, Scotland, 1792. Blondin, the tightrope walker, died in London, 1897.

The Pound



	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	1.77	1.69
Austria Sch	32.30	30.30
Belgium Fr	85.50	81.50
Canada $	2.31	2.22
Denmark Kr	14.97	14.22
Finland Mkk	8.70	8.25
France Fr	11.60	11.00
Germany DM	4.57	4.32
Greece Dr	117.00	110.00
Hongkong $	11.25	10.65
Italy Lir	2390.00	2290.00
Japan Yn	463.00	437.00
Netherlands Gld	5.01	4.75
Norway Kr	11.50	10.90
Portugal Esc	132.00	125.00
Spain Pta	193.00	184.00
Switzerland Fr	3.67	3.45
USA $	1.90	1.83
Yugoslavia Dnr	99.00	93.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

London: The FT Index fell 1.4 to 562.2.

New York: The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 1.33 at 828.96.

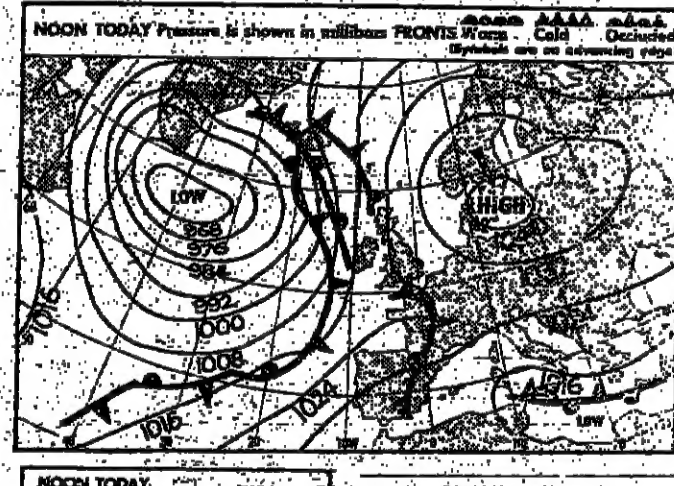
Weather

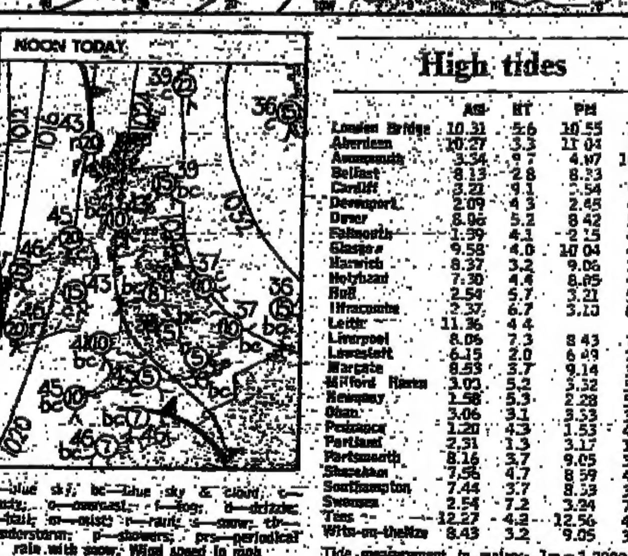
A weak trough of low pressure is approaching NW Scotland; a SE airstream will be maintained over the British Isles.

6 am to midnight

[illegible]

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded





Sun rises: 7.07 am. Sun sets: 5.22 pm.
Moon rises: 4.55 am. Moon sets: 12.47 pm.
New moon February 23.

Lighting up time

London 5.52 pm to 6.35 am
Bristol 6.02 pm to 6.45 am
Edinburgh 5.56 pm to 6.57 am
Manchester 5.57 pm to 6.48 am
Penzance 6.17 pm to 6.54 am

Yesterday

[illegible]

Highest and lowest

[illegible]

Satellite predictions

[illegible]

High tides

[illegible]

Around Britain

[illegible]

Abroad

[illegible]

